

## Marguerite Poley Rides to Her Beloved

*Marguerite Poley passed into the waiting arms of Meher Baba on November 15, 2005. Linda Zavala gave this eulogy for her at Meherabode, Los Angeles, on January 22, 2006.*

Marguerite was born in Zurich, Switzerland April 4, 1909 and came to the US with her mother when she was 16. After a short stay in a convent, she attended Adele Parker's Riding School, where she learned to be a professional equestrienne. She found work as a circus stunt rider and traveled across the US and Canada. During the off-season, she worked as a chauffeur and caretaker of peoples' pets. But after a horse rolled over on her during a training session, causing her serious injury, she and her mother came to LA to pursue a different life.

In November of 1944, while she was working in an aircraft parts factory, Marguerite's lovely hair was caught in a power shear, and her hair and scalp were pulled off. For five hours she lay on a table, bleeding, half-conscious, wondering if she was dead or alive, before she was finally taken to a hospital. She always said that this incident was a great turning point in her life. She suffered two years of unsuccessful skin grafts, extreme pain, depression, and often felt suicidal before her friends began to interest her in spiritual things.

About 1946, she came to hear of Avatar Meher Baba and eventually went to Meher Mount to meet Jean Adriel and Agnes Baron. Her first book about Meher Baba was Jean's book *Avatar*. While reading *Avatar* she read the words, "When the pupil is ready, the Master will appear." This affected her deeply and she began to feel inwardly happy for the first time since the head injury. She experienced three days of bliss and, somehow, she knew absolutely that Meher Baba was the Ancient One, the one the soul longs for eternally. Her conscious journey back to the Divine Beloved began through Meher Baba.



*Marguerite paints at Meher Mount circa 1949-52.*

Feeling unable to participate in the world after the accident, she cleaned houses for 25 years and lived with her mother until her mother passed in 1964.

She met Baba in 1956 in Hollywood and at Meher Mount and again in Myrtle Beach in 1958. She was not able to go to India to see Baba again, but she sent two paintings of Baba which hang in His house at Meherazad to this day. Letters from Baba and the mandali were shared over the years.

Marguerite always loved tending to animals and could intuit and sympathize with their needs. She had lots of folk remedies for her own pets and also worked to rescue abandoned pets on a daily basis. She was given a commendation by the Pet Assistance Foundation for her long and loving care of the lost and forlorn in the animal kingdom.

When I would visit her, Red, the cat, with his great big eyes and massive red fur coat, would sit on the kitchen table eyeing me as I entered. Then, Blackie would come over and crawl all over me in the living room. All of her 14 to 17 cats always knew when someone had entered the house. They would start jumping on the furniture, running out the bedroom window into her cat condo, disappearing under the beds and generally creating a stir. I knew I was then in their world, not mine. I would quickly take my antihistamines so I could enjoy her darling cats.

Marguerite was always working on a painting, a lifelong interest that she pursued more seriously after her head injury. She painted animals, landscapes and then, after she found her Divine Beloved, she painted Him on a White Horse as the Kalki white-horse Avatar. She had a one-woman show of 40 paintings in the 50s in Los Angeles. Her work is known in the Baba community and beyond. She generously gave me one of her paintings of Antarctica,

although it meant a lot to her, because she knew that I admired it, too.

Marguerite was selfless. When I brought her food, I would invariably find I had more food to take back home than I had brought. When we went to coffee or lunch, she would always order very little so I wouldn't be spending too much on her. She always gave back much more than she received.

She never expected anything from anyone. She never considered herself an important person, so when people came to visit, she would say, "Why do you come to see me? Why bother? You have driven so far, just don't trouble yourself." Then her smile would reflect her joy in seeing you and in the expectation of sharing a good Baba story.

Meher Baba said the art of cheerfulness is a divine attribute, and Marguerite was adept at appearing cheerful, unless she was filled with tears of joy at a mere thought or remembrance of her Beloved. When I visited, she always had tears in her eyes when we parted, as would I, as we both remembered that Meher Baba was our link. I would feel a thrill in my being, knowing that Baba was pleased that we came together. I wish now that



*Trick-rider Marguerite on her white horse.*

I could have fathomed more the depth and special meaning of being with one of His dear ones.

Long periods of chronic pain may have been Marguerite's silent friend, the friend that drove her to seek solace in the only One who could ease her anguish—the Divine Beloved who eventually redeems and heals all hurts.

Marguerite's heart would melt in an instant at the sight or thought of her beloved animals, or at the plight of an unfortunate person or upon turning her mind to Baba or any of His dear ones, yet I never knew a stronger, even tougher person. She was a real athlete, an artist and a dauntless soldier for Baba. She was truly little but mighty. Marguerite, with her handmade clothes and matching headscarf, was so modest, constant, intelligent, talented, lively, canny, cheerful, penetrating and devoted. You couldn't think of Marguerite without thinking of

her beloved Meher Baba in the same instant.

Marguerite found, at last, the embrace of her Beloved. She left behind the example of a life lived fully under His guidance, fully in surrenderance and fully in a constant embrace with the Beloved. She is deeply missed

## A Tribute to Jeanette by Hermann Loew

On Jan 17, 2006 at 4:20 AM my darling wife Jeanette passed away into the arms of Beloved Baba. When I received her ashes the cremation, I placed them below Baba's picture on a dresser where Jeanette had placed photos of her with Mani and also with Aloba, and a photo of Mohammed mast she had taken. A half-hour later there was a knock at the door and a beautiful red rose was delivered from the Petaluma Hospice. I put it into a vase and placed it next to her urn and then I looked up at Baba's photo, the one that is a poster and says "Real happiness lies in making others happy". I instantly saw Baba smiling at me and in my heart I heard Him say, "See, you didn't remember but I wanted to give this rose to my dear Jeanette." And this pretty much is the story of her life.

When Bhauji first met Jeanette at the Pearsons' he turned to me, made Baba's sign for perfection and said to me, "She is very good!"

Jeanette had a heart of gold. She always cared for everybody around her and tried to make them happy. She cared deeply for all of our children and grandchildren. She cared very deeply for the environment and for the homeless and suffering of the world. She was always championing one cause or another.

Jeanette was also a prize-winning photographer who had several of her own shows featuring her black and white work, photographed, developed and printed by her. She was apprenticed to Bret Weston, Edward Weston's son for several months. Later she did wonderful work with color photography.

She really loved Meherana, and was one of the first fifty members. She chronicled the early development of Meherana with literally hundreds of beautiful and sometimes breathtaking photos. She always considered herself a butterfly and she loved connecting with every human flower at Meherana, especially it seemed when they were in pain.

It was also at Meherana that Jeanette finally got tired of people asking her if she was a Baba Lover or how she became one. One day she got up on stage took the microphone and announced to everyone that, no, she was not a Baba lover, but she was the lover of a Baba lover. Needless to say she made a deep impression on everyone present because of her honest straightforwardness and courage. Those of us who knew her will miss her love for life and her almost childlike and innocently sweet personality.



*Hermann and Jeanette*

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# C A L L E N D A R

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Meetings are held Saturday nights at 7:30, unless otherwise specified. 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. Phone: (510) 525-4779

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## **Sunday March 5, 2-5 PM - Infinite Intelligence**

*Infinite Intelligence*, published 2005, presents material that Meher Baba gave out in the 1920s. It is a masterful explanation of transcendent metaphysical topics. Brian Collins, who was active in the effort to bring *Infinite Intelligence* to the public, will lead a discussion of the book's main topic and editorial challenges.

## **Sunday March 12, 2-5 PM - Baba's Visit to Oceano**

In the 1930s, Meher Baba visited a small community of artists and spiritual seekers in the Oceano Dunes, south of Pismo Beach California. Betty Lowman will talk about the history of this place, and present-day efforts to preserve the cabin Baba stayed in.

## **Sunday March 19, 10-1 PM - Spring Equinox Arti**

Welcome the coming of spring with Baba's prayers and arti, followed by pot-luck brunch, songs, and stories.

## **Friday March 24, 7 PM - A Visit With Don Stevens**

Don Stevens will share stories of his many years of intimate contact with Meher Baba. Don first met Meher Baba in 1952, and has worked in His service ever since. Under Baba's direction, Don edited *God Speaks* and he has written many of his own books about Baba.

## **Saturday April 1 - No Meeting Scheduled**

## **Saturday April 8, 7:30 PM - Haffendens in Concert**

The Still Yet More Players, Chris and Pris Haffenden, will treat us to an evening of guitar and oboe melodies.

## **Saturday April 15 - No Meeting Scheduled**

## **April 22-23, Urban Sahavas - Bill & Diana LePage**

Bill LePage learned of Meher Baba in 1947, and was with Him in 1954 during 'The Three Incredible Weeks'. He was then with Baba in 1956, 1958, 1962 and 1967. As directed by Beloved Baba, he now lives at Avatar's Abode. Bill is a lively and entertaining speaker, with a lifetime's worth of stories of times spent with the Beloved.

Diana LePage began her art training at age 19 as a sculptor in Paris. For the last 28 years, she has been drawing and painting Meher Baba and His mandali. She will show slides of the murals that she painted in the new dining hall of Meher Retreat, Meherabad.

Saturday, April 22, we will meet at the El Cerrito Center from 11 AM - 5 PM, with a lunch break. Dinner will be provided.

Sunday, April 23, we will meet at the Talbot's, 721 Crossbrook Drive, Moraga, from 11 - 4 PM. Call (925) 376-4325 for directions. Bring potluck lunch.

Suggested donation: Full weekend (Sat and Sun), \$25 for adults, \$10 for ages 18 to 29. \$40 Maximum per family. Single day (Saturday or Sunday), \$15 for adults \$5 for ages 18 to 29. \$25 Maximum per family.

## **Saturday April 29, 7:30 PM - Raine in Concert**

Our own Raine Eastman-Gannett celebrates the release of *I Dwell in Dust and Sing*, her CD of ghazals composed by Francis Brabazon, in celebration of the January 24th birthday that Francis and Raine share.

## **Saturday May 6 - No Meeting Scheduled**

## **May 13-14 - Urban Sahavas with Allan Cohen, Robert Dreyfuss and musical guest David Miotke**

Allan Cohen was just finishing his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at Harvard in the late 1960s when Baba directed him and other young Baba-lovers (specifically Robert Dreyfuss and Rick Chapman) to let America know that drug use was not an authentic path to spirituality. Later, he compiled and edited a book for persons new to Baba, *The Mastery of Consciousness*, under Meher Baba's direct approval

Robert Dreyfuss met Meher Baba in Meherabad after hitchhiking across the world to attend the 1965 Sahavas, which was cancelled while he was enroute. He then attended the Great Darshan in 1969. He was a resident at Meherabad from 1979-83, working closely with the Mandali on various projects

These two old friends have fascinating stories to tell, and David Miotke will add his musical enthusiasm!

See Sahavas details above, for time, place and cost.

## **Sunday May 21, 2-5 PM - Mehera's Day**

Mehera joined her Beloved on May 20th, 1989. This afternoon, we will share stories of Baba's dearest disciple.

## **Saturday May 27 - No Meeting Scheduled**

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

President, Dawn Dolan, Vice President, Kristi Marshall, Secretary, Fred White, Treasurer, Cheryl La Rosa Longo

Board of Directors: Laurie Brook, Dawn Dolan, Suzie Dolan, Kristi Marshall, Pam Johnson, Katie Mink, Fred White, Janet White

Newsletter: Alexandra Cons, editor; Betty Lowman, Laurie Brook • Website: Brian Drygas, Priscilla Hazlewood, Christine Ozuna

Finance: Dawn Dolan • Program/Meetings: Kristi Marshall • Program Planning: Alisa Dreyfuss • Center Maintenance: Pam Johnson, Fred White

Urban Sahavas: Brian Drygas • Bookstore: Katie Mink • Trustwalla: Jack Mormon (P.O. Box 2288, Richmond, CA 94802-1288)

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## SUPPORT YOUR CENTER!

As most of you know, we have a wonderful full-time Center in El Cerrito to hold our regular gatherings, conveniently located across the street from a meeting hall for our larger programs. Incredible effort has gone into the creation of our beautiful and functional space. The ongoing effort to maintain this Bay Area Center is shared by many hardworking individuals. Many of you give financial support when you attend events, but only a very few of you send in a committed donation on a monthly basis. This keeps our center on the very edge of meeting its monthly obligations for rent, utilities and, of course, the fabulous quarterly newsletter that you are holding in your hands at this very moment. Postage and printing is quite a large part of our budget.

Why not let our Center volunteers use their time and energy to put together programs of interest, rather than putting their effort into fundraising projects? If you believe that it is worthwhile to keep the Center up and running, and if you'd rather not be bothered about fundraising projects, please consider making a regular monthly contribution. We are a large group — a small amount from each of us would cover all that is needed.

Please send checks to Meher Baba Center of No. Calif. 6923 Stockton Ave. El Cerrito, CA 94530. For credit card donations, contact Doug Ross (510) 388-6529.

### MEHERANA

For information, go to [www.Meherana.org](http://www.Meherana.org) or call the Pearsons at 209 966-5078.

Upcoming Events:

- April 2: Wildflower Walk
- April 14-16 - Young Adult Sahavas
- May 6-7 - Artistic Weekend
- May 27-29 - Sahavas with Bhau Kalchuri



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### LOCAL MEETINGS

#### *Lafayette - Sunday Afternoons*

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

#### *Los Gatos - Sunday 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 Loew at (707) 778-1195. Please call ahead.

#### *Sacramento - Several Gatherings Each Month*

Times and locations vary. Contact Mike and Jean Ross, (916) 359-2954 or Cheryl Johnson (559) 312-3751 for details. See more info. on the web: [www.garlic.com/~cdjohnso/SacMeherBaba](http://www.garlic.com/~cdjohnso/SacMeherBaba)

#### FOR ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER CHANGES:

e-mail: [amba42@yahoo.com](mailto:amba42@yahoo.com) call: (510) 525-4779  
write: **MBCNC 6923 Stockton Ave. El Cerrito, CA 94530**

To receive e-mail updates from the Center,  
send an e-mail to: [elist@MeherBabaMeherBaba.org](mailto:elist@MeherBabaMeherBaba.org)

Our Center's Web Site: Program information and more!  
[www.MeherBabaMeherBaba.org](http://www.MeherBabaMeherBaba.org)

#### 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.

#### 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).

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