



Meher News



Northwest

Spring/Summer 2009

An Oregon Newsletter

Dedicated to Avatar Meher Baba

Vol. 14 No. 3

Events and Meetings

Mehera Meher Readings First Sunday of Every Month 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

At these monthly meetings, we read from and discuss the three-volume book set *Mehera Meher*. These collections of touching stories from the women mandalis' perspective are told by Beloved Mehera. Light snack and tea provided.

June 7 - Dinah Smith's home
Call for directions: 503-644-5687
July - August - summer break

Women's Tea for Mehera Sunday, May 17, 1-4 p.m. at Malini Eyer-Raffo's

Baba's beloved Mehera passed away twenty years ago, on May 20, 1989. Ladies will have tea this afternoon to celebrate her reunion with her Beloved. Bring your stories, pictures, memories or readings of Mehera and other women mandali to share. Please bring tea snacks to share. RSVP 503-598-8460.

Oregon Summer Sahavas Planning Meetings

Come help us prepare for the August 2009 Oregon Sahavas. All are welcome! Planning meetings and work party times are as follows:

May 17, Sun, 10-12 at Malini's, before Mehera's Tea. For directions, call 503-598-8460.

June - time and place to be announced via e-mail.

July 12th, Sun, 12 noon at Malini's

July 25th, Sat. 10 AM: Planning & Work at Baba House, bring lunch.

Aug 9th, Sun. 10 AM: Planning & Work at Baba House bring lunch.

Jap - Repetition of God's Name Saturday, June 6 Neskowin, Oregon

This will be a one-day event at the Frank's beach home in Neskowin. All are welcome. Beginning at 8 a.m., we will initiate an 8-hour jap in which the name of God is continuously repeated outloud for the entire period. Participants need to sign up for half hour intervals in which they are responsible to repeat His name. At 5:30, following the jap, we will have a celebratory potluck feast. Although there is no cost for the day, registration is necessary so we can be sure that all the half hour slots are filled. Other than the potluck, no meals will be provided, but for those wanting to spend the night, camping is available on the Frank's property. Local hotels include the Proposal Rock Inn (503-392-3115) which is the most reasonably priced. Other options are the Neskowin Resort (503-392-3191) or the Pacific Sands (503-392-3101).

To register, go to the Oregon Meher Baba Group website (www.avatarmeherbabaoregon.org/) and go to JAP. Please complete the form with your three choices for the times to repeat God's name and whether you will be camping at the Frank's and staying for the potluck. The registration deadline is June 1. Your time slot will be confirmed by email no later than June 4. For questions and directons, please call Marnie Frank at 503-736-9077

This will be an exciting experiment, with only Baba knowing where it will lead. We hope you can join us.

Women's Summer Retreat at Neskowin, July 17-19

Baba's women lovers are invited to spend a weekend at the home of Marnie Frank in Neskowin, Oregon.

Please register by July 12.
Registration form inside or
sign up online at:

www.AvatarMeherBabaOregon.org

Oregon Summer Sahavas August 14-16, with guests Buzz and Wendy Connor Baba House, Scotts Mills

See the enclosed flyer for information and registration form. To volunteer to help before or during Sahavas weekend, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Marne Frank at 503-736-9077 or dmpfrank@aol.com. Register online at:

www.AvatarMeherBabaOregon.org

Silverton/Salem Area Bi-Monthly Meeting

We meet in local homes every other Sunday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. to share in Baba's love. We read, sing, share experiences, then have arti and prayers. Next meeting will be Sunday, May 31 at the Wilsons home in Silverton. 503 873-2048.

Dhuni At Sundown 12th of Each Month

At Rick Scheu's, West Linn
503-699-8788 or 503-635-9586

Chat with Bhau every Sunday

Join Bhauji's weekly chat each Sunday, from 4:30 AM to 8:30 AM PST. Join the chat via <http://jaibaba.com/echat45/public/index.html>.

A Sweet Time with Jal and Dolly

What fun we had on the first weekend in May, with Baba's close ones Jal and Dolly Dastoor. They brought a whiff of India and Baba's love to us here in the Pacific Northwest. Anil and Vijayshree (Vijay) Nori graciously opened their home in Redmond Washington for the gathering, and made us all feel like family. Vijay and her sister-in-law Lakshmi cooked amazing quantities of delicious Indian food, and when not listening to talks, we hung around the the kitchen, sniffing the aromas, drinking chai, chatting, and even watching a little Zee TV (broadcast from India). Jal made sure that every attendee had a Baba button, handing one to every person he met, then making sure we all wore them through the weekend.

Jal and Dolly shared sweet reminiscences of a their time spent in company of the Avatar. One story led to another... and another... and another. When Jal would tell a story, Dolly would gently remind him of a detail or a person's name. "I fill in the blanks," she says. Jal and Dolly have been married 53 years, "In our 53 years together, we've had 53 battles," says Jal. "Score? Dolly, 53, me 0! At our 50th wedding anniversary, someone asked me the secret to our long marriage. I said, 'Haven't you heard of the 5 H's — Henpecked, Harrassed, Humbug, Humbled... Happy Husband!'"

Dolly was born into a family of Baba lovers and Jal learned of Baba when he fell in love with Dolly. They married with Baba's blessing, Jal's family, devout Zoroastrians, were skeptical of Baba at first, but came to love Baba later. Dolly worked in the Japanese consulate with Katie Irani. Jal worked for a shipping company, then started his own successful import business. They were living in Bombay when they heard the news that Baba had dropped His body.

Arnavaz called Dolly at work on a Friday afternoon with the news that Baba had passed away. To get to Meherabad, there was only one train, at 8 o'clock that night. They quickly packed and caught the train, arriving in Ahmednagar late at night. They didn't know what to expect when they arrived at Meherabad, the path to the samadhi was not well-marked, the samadhi itself was just a simple building, without awnings, or seating for visitors. Only Mansari lived up on the hill permanently. And of course, the mandali were all grieving, uncertain about how to proceed without Baba's direction. They didn't know how long to keep Baba's body for viewing, before burying Him. Some were sure it would start to decompose after a couple of days, others held out for longer. They sent for a truckload of ice to keep His body fresh as possible, and finally, it was decided to bury Him on February 7, His birthday on the Persian calendar. Baba's body stayed sweet and fresh until then, and many were able to come to pay their last respects to their beloved Ancient One.

Dolly said that she could feel how distraught Mehera was, and she stayed right at her side. "That was the beginning of my relationship with her," she said. "Before then, I had stayed in the background, but now it was my privilege to help Mehera. She was in such shock, she missed Baba so intensely."

Jal and Dolly talked about learning to please Baba. They would ask Him if they should do a certain thing. If Baba liked the idea, He would give them an immediate, enthusiastic response. If His response was lukewarm, or if He looked puzzled, or asked many questions, indicating "Really, really, do you want to do this?" they learned it was best not to pursue the action, or to try to convince Baba. Baba wouldn't say "No" outright. He would finally acquiesce, saying "If you wish, you can do it," but He wasn't necessarily pleased. Jal and Dolly learned that pleasing Baba was much better than getting Him to agree with them.



The group with Jal and Dolly (photos courtesy Marjan Namiranian)

Jal told of the time Baba had a special gathering for His volunteers, who never had time to embrace Baba because they were busy with sahasra duties. Eruch told the volunteers they must be very brief when greeting Baba, simply say "Jai Baba," and move on, because there were many lovers and time was short. Jal had been longing to bow down at Baba's feet, but when it was his turn, he kept his greeting brief and started to walk away. Baba beckoned insistently to Jal, "Come here!" Then He lovingly embraced Jal and allowed him to bow down at His feet. Baba said "Only God knows when you will have this opportunity again." The next time Jal bowed down at Baba's feet was when Baba's body was in the crypt.

(continued on back page)

David Defauw and Julia Christopher were married at their country home on March 30. The ceremony was beautiful with quotes of Baba, Rumi, and Hafiz. David wrote this lovely poem for the occasion.

A Poem for Julia, Stolen from Hafiz

O friends, raise up a glass and be happy
For the Beloved has brought us together with wine

Each of you, family and friends, are like a sweet grape
And time has pressed our hearts together leaving a lovely wine

Julia, I am so happy to be here with you, by fate or luck, or heaven's whim
Your bright face, kind brown eyes, honey smile, and lips that taste of wine

The cup of my heart is overflowing and spilling everywhere
I am intoxicated by your sight, and maybe some wine

Do you remember that breakfast 11 years ago,
25 family, kids, and friends
I arrived from India, a moon in my pocket, having drunk Meher's wine

Our eyes met, stung, I was trying to remember where I'd seen you,
An empty chair was next to you, we laughed, fate smiled, and poured wine

Each evening was Vampire Real Estate*, Polly and Mike wanted a few houses
You flew in like a bird seeking a nest, we poured more and more wine

Embraced by this land of fir and cliff and big water
I took you to a waterfall and asked, you said you would be mine

Animals love her kind eyes and run to her. Lucky for Noah, Julia wasn't
Building her own ark, he would be left with an empty boat, a glass of wine

When I drive up the driveway, I see the horses shaking their long faces
"How can he be good enough for her?" "A gift" I say. They only Whinny

Look at our nest, Horses, dogs, goats, chickens, cats, and beautiful girls
Who I have seen grow into flowers so fine?

Andrea, Heather, Julie, Lia, Lily. Looking at you all, my heart is
So full of love, that words cannot pass by, this is the best wine

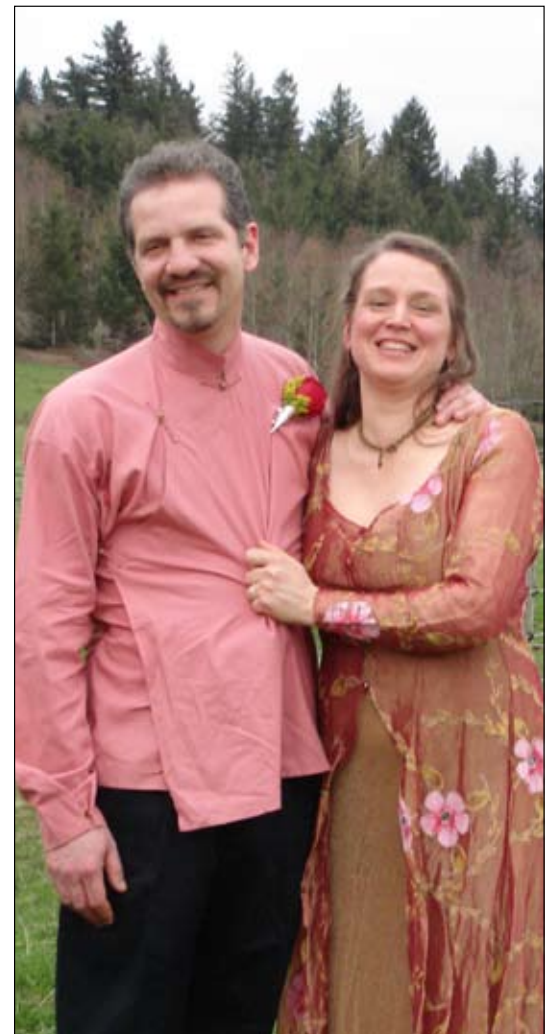
And Julia, with a lasso of kindness and love, she keeps the girls close
Mother, daughter, friend, the music of laughter, it's divine

Friends, she doesn't know, she has a radiant face like a rising harvest moon
A face you cannot remain mad at, only mad for, the best wine

Oh David. It is sometimes good to tell all how you feel, and it is all true
But enough, everyone is hungry and falling asleep, so smile and raise a glass of wine



The happy family: Julie, Julia, David, Andrea, Lily, Lea and Heather.



**I used to visit Julia's sister, Polly, at night and talk about real estate over wine.*



"I wish I could see Him again."

On Saturday afternoon, the young adults put on a lovely play set in the 1930s. Its theme was chance meetings with the Avatar. All the characters had brief encounters with Meher Baba, and all were struck by His beauty and grace, saying wistfully, "I wish I could see Him again." Romantic '30s music and period costumes created a nostalgic mood. Jal and Dolly pose here with cast members Colin Hurkett, Mitra Namirian, Summer Taylor, Bob Morearty, Shireen Nori, Lee Barrientos, Meherzad Namirian and Randall Williams, the playwright.

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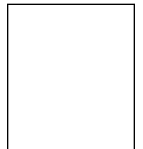
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CALENDAR OVERVIEW

Mehera Meher Reading
Sunday, June 7, 10 a.m-12 p.m.

Mehera's Women's Tea
Sunday, May 17, 1-4 p.m.

Baba Jap at Neskowin
June 6

Womens' Summer Retreat
at Neskowin July 17-19

Savahas Planning Meetings
and Work Days
May 17, June 14, July 25, Aug. 9

Oregon Sahavas
August 14-16