

Haidakhandi Universal Ashram Newsletter

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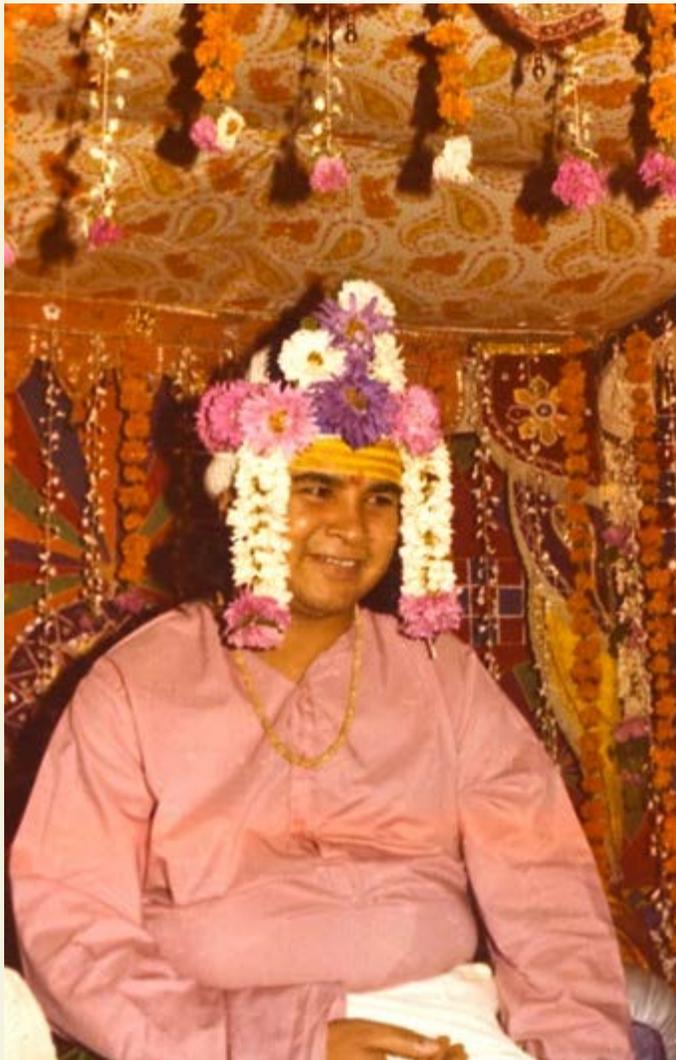


www.babajashram.org

July, 2013

Dear Friends,

It has been a wonderfully full and busy time here at the Ashram. I am so grateful to be dressing the Divine Mother three and four days a week. These wee hours of the morning are particularly conducive to "aha" experiences and witnessing small miracles. Our dear friend, Bijay Yerra and his family, was here this weekend. When I mentioned some of these small miracles to him he shared with me something he was told by a friend at his Guru's ashram:



"Everything in life is grace. The intelligent one recognizes this as a fact and lives a life of gratitude filled with love. Every moment they are alert to the fact that everything that happens is coming from that one infinite source of love (God). But common people like us forget this in our day to day life. But God wants to remind us in His/Her special way. So something special happens in our life - which immediately draws our attention, we may even call it a miracle. This is God's way of highlighting what is always going on and saying, "Hey!! It's all from Me". One can't miss these occasions. On these special occasions we are immediately aware of the Lord's magnitude and grandeur and our minds go numb with humbleness and we don't know how to thank Him/Her. WOW.

"But as we continue on our spiritual quest, one day will come in our life when this awareness will be there in the back of our minds constantly - that all this is God's grace. Its just a matter of recognition and understanding. Then you don't need any miracles in life to recognize this fact."

So after hearing this, I began to pay attention more closely to every moment.

This morning dressing Mother, I was

aware of every movement this body made, this body that takes such good care of me, it is a miracle from God. Watching the sun rise in the gentle colors of morning, another miracle. The mountains that surround us, the trees that are all around us, the rocks, the beautiful creek flowing,

the birds chirping; these are all miraculous. I even was aware of the feeling of the air dancing over my arms! What a blissful morning!

I am so grateful for satsang with others that are on the spiritual path. Even though I know all is the Divine, to be reminded of it is always a blessing and a great reinforcer. By the way you can listen to the Sri Sukktam and many other Sanskrit prayers beautifully chanted by Bijay on youtube.com. Just type in bijayyerra. It has all of the words to go with the chants and often lovely photos of our Divine Mother.

With deep love,
Ramloti

Ceremonies and Schedule

The new-moon fire ceremony this month is on Monday, July 8 and the full-moon fire ceremony is on Monday, July 22 (Guru Purnima Day, see article below). The fire ceremonies begin at 10am and are followed by a meal. Please arrive freshly bathed, in a long skirt or pants with shoulders covered, and having fasted from grains, cereals, meat, eggs, garlic and onions. (Fruit, yogurt, nuts, veggies and tea or coffee are fine to eat before. Also if you have a dietary need for something more hardy before our meal at 11:30 or so, please partake.)

Our evening aarati is at 6pm and morning aarati is at 7am with a paduka puja in Shri Babaji's kutir each morning at 6:30am. Lunch is served at about 12:30 pm, and we invite you to join us. (Call if you are a group or have special dietary needs.) The Maha Lakshmi Shop is open every day from 10am until 5pm.

If you would like to participate by sponsoring a fire ceremony or a bhandara (feast), we would like to send you a blessed item from the fire ceremony. They are:

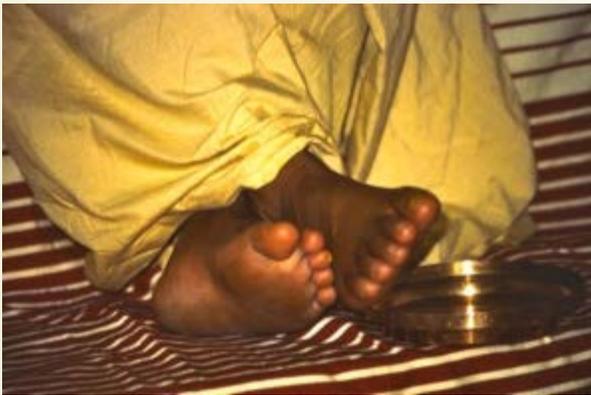
- \$27 sponsorship - Copper, brass, nickel Om Namah Shivaya bracelet
- \$54 sponsorship - Rudraksha, Rosewood, or Tulsi Mala
- \$108 sponsorship - Rose Quartz Mala or a copper, silver, brass bracelet

You can make the donation online by just [clicking here](#) or by calling 719-256-4108, or by emailing the Ashram at info@BabajiAshram.org. You may also send us a check made to HUA to: P.O. Box 9, Crestone, CO 81131.



We are continually grateful for all of your support of the Ashram.

Guru Purnima Celebrations in Germany and in Crestone



Guru Purnima, the day you honor your teacher, falls on Monday, July 22. There will be an international celebration in Rieferath, Germany from July 19 - 22. For more information about this event go to their website at www.babajiashram.de and click on Guru Purnima on the upper right, which gives you an option for English.

At the Ashram here, we will have a paduka puja at 9am followed by the full-moon fire ceremony at 10am on Monday, July 22. A meal will be

served at 11am. Call us for more information or to make a reservation at 719-256-4108 or info@babajiashram.org.

Annual American Haidakhan Samaj Meeting Weekend - July 27 - 28

Shri Babaji encouraged us to come together and formed the Haidakhan Samaj many years ago. We invite you to participate. The Annual American Haidakhan Samaj weekend will be held here at the Ashram on Saturday, July 27 and Sunday, July 28.

There will be daily small fire ceremonies, aarati, chanting, satsang and a meeting to share ideas and inspiration on spreading Babaji's message throughout America. Gathering with other devotees is so full and inspiring. Many people are already planning to come from around the world. So mark your calendar for this weekend and call us for more information or to make a reservation at 719-256-4108 or



info@babajiashram.org.

To learn more about the American Haidakhan Samaj please go to their new website at: <http://babajisamaj.us/>

Family Week at the Ashram - July 30 - August 2

“Cooking Up a Joyful Family” will be the theme of this year's thirteenth annual Family Week. The four days are always a fun, inspirational, love-filled, and informative. This year during the Family Meeting, Susie Walton author, parenting coach, and instructor from Encinitas, CA will be offering mini-talks on “The Joy of Parenting.” This will take place at about 9:30am each morning and even folks who are not staying at the Ashram are welcome to attend the talk.



We are pretty full for staying at the Ashram but call soon if you wish to attend and let's see what we can work out. It is such a special time that we will try to accommodate everyone. The days are Tuesday, July 30 through Friday, August 2. Each day is full of wonderful events including a workshop by Sofia Diaz for the adults while the children are doing kid-friendly projects in the Kids' workshop. Read below for more information about her workshop.

We also have a generous donor who is willing to help a family to attend that may not be able to due to financial shortages. Please call the Ashram at 719-256-4108 or email us at info@babajiashram.org to make reservations, ask questions or discuss some financial help.

The Divine Mother as Fullness of Witness & Luminous Emptiness Workshop with Sofia Diaz - July 30 - August 2

"I wish everyone in this country, as well as in all the world, all the best. Nowadays humanism has been completely killed; human beings have become like animals. I want to bring back humanism into the soul of every person. Because of the lack of human spirit, every individual is in tension and fear. I want to relieve everyone from this state."

Sri Haidakhand Babaji

Amazingly simple, the all-encompassing spirit-filled yoga posture of 'humanism' is Rajasana, the basic cross-legged sit. The geometry of this position IS peace. It is most conducive to the relaxation of mind-forms to allow the basic currents of the body to be lived in the gracious circuitry of the Great Love of The Mother.

This year's workshop dynamism will draw from the deep replenishment of dipping into the well of our own complete humanism, first in intimacy with silence and the listening-intent of feeling what lives us, then the celebratory burst of gratitude in music infused movement.

We have so much to be grateful for and such a deep well of our selves to replenish in thanks to the omniscient presence and example of Babaji and all Masters who's offerings have already stilled the waters of confusion, all we have to do is notice and swim or bask!!!!

This workshop will be from 10am until 1pm in the kirtan hall of the Ashram. Your children can attend the concurrent children's program so that you will be free to take the workshop. We ask a donation of \$108 and some partial scholarships are available.

(The children's program is a gift from the Ashram for our children). Call 719-256-4108 or email us at info@babajiaashram.org for more information or to make a reservation.



Karma Yoga at the Ashram

Lots of wonderful karma yoga going on. We are mitigating weeds and bushes around the buildings for fire safety, building new covers for the small havan, reorganizing the pujari room, repairing the stand for our solar cooker, preparing for fire ceremonies and feast, repainting a few needed areas, and weeding, watering and harvesting in the garden. This along with all of the auction karma yoga of putting the items on line, emailing out notices, and than sending out all of the winning items, has kept us all very busy.

We are so grateful to all of the those who can come and help at the Ashram and to all of you that help make these projects possible by your financial donations. We ask each of you to look into your hearts and see what this Ashram means to you and to please donate as you are able. You may go to our website and [donate through PayPal](#) . (You can even set up a monthly tithe.) You can also send a check (made out to HUA) to P.O. Box 9, Crestone, CO 81131; or you can call us at 719-256-4108



with a credit card number. We want to thank you for your support, love and prayers.

Camino de Crestone - An Unforgettable Interfaith Pilgrimage



While most of the spiritual centers at the foot of the sacred Sangre de Cristo Mountains have been in place for nearly thirty years, 2013 is the Camino de Crestone Inaugural Year. The great pilgrimages of the world—in India, Japan, Spain and England—are now joined by the world's first full inter-faith pilgrimage in the international village of Crestone. Amid Colorado's gorgeous country, a village unique in all the world beckons you to experience a full range of authentic 'paths of return'—the great traditions aspiring to their original inspiration. It all takes place over seven remarkable days in just 40 kilometers. Crestone's Camino pilgrimage is offered in the spirit of religious unity and diversity. You will be visiting 15 different centers in a week-long experience geared to be educational, clarifying and, without being burdening or dogmatic, richly thorough.

The Camino de Crestone promises to be a historic venture on your spiritual journey, life's greatest of all adventures.

While certainly Crestone abounds in some of Colorado's finest terrains, there are other dimensions to why Crestone is a magnet of spiritual presence. First among these, the Sangre de Cristo Mountains contain the most sacred mountain in the world to the Hopi, Crestone Peak, rising to 14,295' in the southern part of the Camino de Crestone. And, just beyond the Great Sand Dunes National Park visibly bordering the Camino, you will behold another 'fourteener,' Mt. Blanca, the most sacred mountain in the world to the Navajo. Thus is this area inherently powerful, which one Hopi elder verified by calling the Great Sand Dunes, "The place where heaven and earth meet"—heaven (air) and earth (sand) mixing together to form these 1000' dunes. Second, the story of a mountain preacher predicting Crestone's destiny as a spiritual mecca is even more powerful when heard in the lap of these mountains where the prescient pronouncement was made.

As time seems to be speeding up, the events taking place in our world escalating in intensity and significance, the need for an inter-faith pilgrimage grows in timeliness and importance. We recognize that, given that most wars on our planet have erupted over religious conflicts, there is a

significant reaction to 'religion'. Yet the religious impulse represents the deepest human urge to belong, to relate and to know what is most important. The motion towards inter-religious harmony becomes all the more vital. Our human family deeply needs inter-religious tolerance, inter-religious respect...and even inter-religious admiration. As our human family grows more global, so its religions are being understood in their unity even as their diversity gets more obviously expressed. Our planet's authentic religious traditions are like wells into a shared aquifer: While the locale of each well is different, the water they draw is the same. So, too, with human beings: We are like all others...yet are unique in ourselves. The Camino de Crestone pilgrimage is dedicated to your uniqueness and universality.

Seven Unforgettable Days You are invited inward...and outward...in a week-long quest for meaning, for understanding, for direct experience, for freedom and truth. Such a journey gains authenticity from the dedication of body, mind and spirit to pilgrimage. Ashrams, zendos, stupas, retreats, labyrinths, temples, sweat lodges, sanctuaries and much more... What better could you do in a week?

To find out more about this week pilgrimage please go to www.caminodecrestone.com.

Fall Navratri - October 3 - 12

We are making plans for our wonderful Fall Navratri, the Divine Mother Festival. This year it begins on a Friday and will complete nine days later on a Saturday.

We already have people booking for this auspicious time of daily fire ceremonies, pujas, discourses and chanting honoring our beloved Mother. You may want to mark you calendars now!

You may call the Ashram at 719-256-4108 or email us at info@babajiashram.org for more information or to make a reservation.

Haidakhandeswari Mata Ki Jai!



Recent Events

The Ashram Annual On-Line Auction - A Huge Success!

The Ashram annual Maha Lakshmi On-Line Auction was a great success thanks to all who donated items, sponsored the auction, and bid on the items. We raised about \$13,000. All of the earnings will go to maintain Shri Babaji's and the Divine Mother's home here in Crestone.

Thank you once again for your support and all of your intentions were remembered at our fire ceremony on the day the auction ended. It was a flower petal fire ceremony, read about it below. We have already heard from some of the fortunate recipients of two of the devotional items. Here they are:

“The blessed rose quartz mala arrived today. I can't begin to tell how grateful I am to receive it. I did japa with it and then put it on and meditated and my meditation was so powerful and deep...the Shakti continues to bless me as I am wearing it and going about my day !!!
Bhole Baba Ki Jai!” Much Love, Karen

“I received my Mala with 54 beads today from the auction. I opened up the package and when I held the mala - my hands vibrated and my heart opened - what an awesome experience!!”



Flower petal Fire Ceremonies

With all of the fires raging around southern Colorado and northern New Mexico, it was not unexpected when a severe fire ban was placed on our county. Our new-moon, full-moon, and daily fire ceremonies continue, however. In place of the fire, we light the fire of devotion in our hearts and instead of samagri (the traditional rice mixture) we offer flower petals. Shri Babaji said that it is the fire ceremony that helps to bring the rain and so we would never think to discontinue this ceremony at this crucial time. We have been grateful to have a little rain and lots of moist clouds and air the last few days. We pray for Mother's and Baba's blessing upon the balance of nature and for all those who are suffering in and battling the fires.



Crestone Mountain Fire Alliance

The unincorporated area outside of the Baca Grande, where many of the spiritual centers are located, has no formal fire protection. We have always been told that if there was a fire emergency, that the Baca Grande and Crestone Fire Departments would come to our aid but only after all of their district was taken care of first. For this reason we have formed the Crestone Mountain Fire Alliance. We have had trainings and have some equipment housed at the different centers up along Camino Baca Grande. Last Friday we had a meeting at the Ashram with 12 in attendance, including the current and former Baca Grande fire chiefs. We discussed evacuation plans, emergency telephone communication, and supporting a more unified emergency service plan. We have also been doing a large amount of fire mitigating to make our properties safer. Yesterday morning there was a training for operating some of the fire equipment, like this foam truck, at the Shumei Center. Here is a photo from that.



Warm Weather Visitors

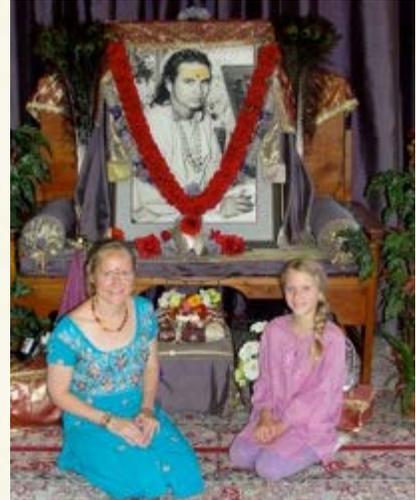
We have had many visitors although some chose not to come due to fires and smoke in the area. We love all the folks that come here and appreciate their help and love that they bring.



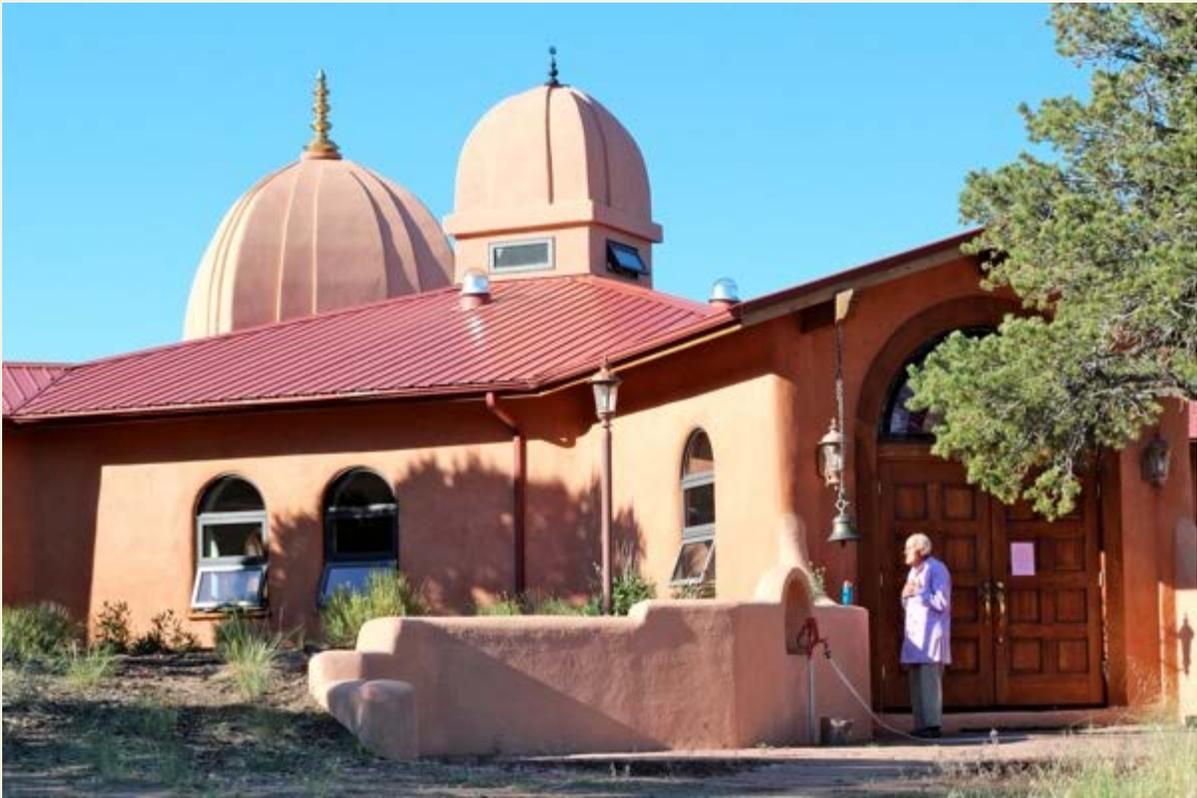
One of our visitors, a student from Colorado College said this about his visit.

Last week a friend and I visited the Haidakhandi Universal Ashram and had a wonderful time. The drive through the valley was very smoky and hot, but as we drove into Crestone, the air cleared. The ashram is quiet and located in the beautiful foothills of Mt. Crestone. Ramloti, Jonathan, and Premanand were wonderful as were the people passing through on their travels. The songs we sang for Aarati sounded very traditional, and it was wonderful to be able to get into a hypnotic state of mind at the beginning and end of the day. The practice of Karma Yoga is an act of humility, and it felt good to participate in it. Ramloti cooked great food and cookies. The ashram is a good place to get away from everyday life and engage in spiritual practices. I plan to return there again. It was a wonderful place to be.

Here are photos from some of our other visitors. Bhole Baba Ki Jai!









Calendar for 2013

July 22 - Guru Purnima

July 27 - 28 - Annual American Haidakhan Samaj Weekend and Meeting.

July 30 - August 2 - Annual Family Week w/ concurrent Sofia Diaz Workshop.

October - 4 - 12 - Fall Navratri - Divine Mother Festival with daily fire ceremonies, pujas, discourses, reading, chanting and other ceremonies.

November 3 - Diwali, Festival of Lights.

Maha Lakshmi Shop Report



How would you like to think of the Divine every time you read the clock? Well don't miss out on this special offer to buy one at the Maha Lakshmi Shop for only \$15. They measure 12 inches and because of limited quantities, they are not available on line so call the Shop to order at 719-256-4108.



Go to <http://mahalakshmiashop.wazala.com> to order most of our items on line, or call the Ashram at 719-256-4108. We also can take orders over the phone, so just call us at 719-256-4108 (every day from 10am until 5pm Mountain Time) with your order, any questions and a credit card number (Visa, Mastercard or Discover). It is really nice to connect in this way. We love to talk to you.

The Shop is a major supporter of the Ashram, so we deeply appreciate your patronage.

Maha Lakshmi Mata Ki Jai!