

Haidakhandi Universal Ashram Newsletter

Connect with the Ashram



February, 2013

www.babjiashram.org

Dear Friends,

January is typically the month I spend with my family in the warmer climes. This year is no exception and with the consistently below freezing temperatures at the Ashram lately, I am certainly grateful to be here. It is always a month filled with love being with my children, sisters, brother, other family and of course, my seven grandchildren. I schedule programs with fire ceremonies and chanting on a couple of the weekends while I am in California. These are both inspiring and catch me up with the devotees here (see photos below). I also did three fire ceremonies at my family's home in San Diego.



I love this month and although I miss the Ashram being gone this long, it is a great time to catch up on rest, exercise, and relaxation (as much as you can with this many grandchildren!). It is also a time to catch up with reading, since by 7pm my children are putting their little ones to bed, and I can snuggle in bed with a good book. This year I focused on two books; the first was *In Perfect Timing* by Peter Caddy. Peter Caddy was co-founder of the Findhorn community in northern Scotland. Reading about the simple beginnings of the center, which is now world-known, and the deep commitment to following the inspiration from God as they built it, was deeply inspiring for me. It was also instructive to me to read about his gradual letting go of the leadership there and passing it on to younger folks as he headed for his seventies.

The next book was *The Untethered Soul* by Michael Singer. You may have seen an interview with the author on the Oprah Winfrey Show a few months ago. It was helpful to have plenty of time to read this book because it has plenty of food for thought in it. It definitely guided me to delve deeper into my psyche than I had ever methodically and consciously done before. Looking at where I hold on and try to control things has been a theme since my ruptured appendix last year. Examining it from the perspective of this book has been very meaningful to me. I highly recommend both of these books. They are available in the Maha Lakshmi Shop (see below).

As I head back to the Ashram, I am grateful to come home and dive into the daily practices. I am also excited to see people on my trip to Denver, Colorado Springs, and Florida toward the end of this month.

Bhole Baba Ki Jai!
Ramloti

Ceremonies and Schedule

The new-moon fire ceremony this month is on Sunday, February 10 and the full-moon fire ceremony on Monday, February 25. The fire ceremonies begin at 10am and are followed by a meal. Our evening aarati is at 6pm, and morning aarati is at 8am (it will change back to 7am in March) with a paduka puja in Shri Babaji's kutir each morning at 7:30am. Lunch is served at about 12:30pm, and we invite you to join us. The Maha Lakshmi Shop is open every day from 10am until 5pm.



If you would like to participate by sponsoring a fire ceremony or the meal that follows, 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 sponsors - Rosewood or Tulsi Mala
- \$108 sponsorship - Rudraksha Mala or Copper, silver, brass bracelet

You can make the donation online by just [clicking here](#) or you can call 719-256-4108 or e-mail the Ashram at info@BabajiAshram.org or 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.

Birthday Weekend Celebrations with Shri Babaji's Padukas

I will be celebrating my 64th birthday on February 17. I am so grateful for all of the loved ones in my life, and what better way to celebrate my birthday than to be with as many of you as possible.

Myself and Tribhuvan from the Ashram will be bringing Shri Babaji's padukas to several homes in the Denver area and Colorado Springs for paduka puja, chanting, bhandaras, and fire ceremonies. I so hope you can join us at least at one of them. The only thing I ask is that there be no presents; I really need nothing. If you would like to make a donation to the Ashram in my name, that would be fine.

There is still some time on Monday, February 18 (President's Day), if you wish for Shri Babaji's padukas to bless your home or business in the Denver area. Please call me at 719-480-5514 or email at info@babajiaashram.org as soon as possible if you would like this to happen. Here is the schedule so far: (All will begin with a paduka puja and include chanting and a meal.)

Friday, February 15 at 7:30pm - Smita and Prabohd Telang's home at 3068 143rd Ave, Thornton (sometimes it comes up as Brighton), CO 80602. You may call them at 720-250-6325 to RSVP or for more information.

Saturday, February 16 at 11:30am - Monika and Sumit Celly's home at 2840 Helnsdale Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80920. You may call them at 719-533-1579 to RSVP or for more information.

Sunday, February 17 at 11am - Shashi and Bipin Agarwal's home at 4 Redhawk Run, Englewood, CO 80113. This will include a fire ceremony. Please call them at 303-523-8627 to RSVP or for more information.

Sunday, February 17 at 6pm - Sabina and Ajay Pradham's home at 4834 S. Eagle Circle, Aurora, CO 80015. Please call them at 720-732-6141 to RSVP or for more information.





Afire with the Flames of Devotion - A Tour of Love

Right after the birthday gatherings in Colorado, Ramloti and Tribhuvan will fly with Shri Babaji's padukas to Florida with Bipin and Shashi Agarwal from Denver. We will be met there by Richard Cahall from Seattle, Roz from Canada, and Elaine from Florida. It will be a special time as devotees come together to perform paduka pujas, chant, participate in fire ceremonies, and share stories about Babaji. We are so excited to be with you all and to help spread the flames of love and devotion on this tour. Here are a few photos from last year's celebrations in Florida.



Here are this year's locations:

Wednesday, February 20 at 10am - Fire Ceremony at Sacred Lands at 1620 Park Street North, St. Petersburg, Florida 33710 (for parking use 1700 Park St. N). Call Jeffrey and Sharda at 727-363-0800 for more information.

Wednesday, February 20 at 7pm - Chanting and images and stories of Babaji at Sacred Lands at 1620 Park Street North, St. Petersburg, Florida 33710 (for parking use 1700 Park St. N). Call Jeffrey and Sharda at 727-363-0800 for more information.

Thursday, February 21 at 10am - Fire Ceremony at The Longhouse on 49th Street, Inc. 2309 49th Street S, Gulfport FL 33707). Call Jeffrey and Sharda at 727-363-0800 for more information.

Friday, February 22 at 7:30pm - Paduka Puja, chanting and images and stories of Babaji at 415 Alhambra, Coral Gables, FL 33134. Call Bob Walsh at 954-873-8083 for more information.

Saturday, February 23 at 11am - Fire Ceremony at Olga Lucia Toro's home at 909 Sanctuary Cove Dr, North Palm Beach, FL 33410. For more information, please call Elaine at 561-277-8326.

Saturday, February 23 at 7pm - Chanting and images and stories of Babaji at Transformational Studies at 900 E. Indiantown Road #310, Jupiter, FL 33477. Call Jim at 561-371-2832 for more information.

Sunday, February 24 at 11am - Paduka puja, fire ceremony, aarati, chanting and pot luck in Delray Beach at Sal and Sarena Morello's home. Call 561-274-0883 for more information.

Monday, February 25 at 8am - Fire Ceremony in Alachua, Florida. Call 719-480-5514 for more information.

If you have questions, please give us a call at 719-256-4108.

Maha Shivaratri with all-night Chanting on Sunday, March 10 and Fire Ceremony on Monday, March 11 at 10am

This special night of Lord Shiva is celebrated each year at the Ashram with all-night chanting the night before (Sunday) and a fire ceremony on the morning of Shivaratri (Monday). It all begins with aarati at 6pm followed by the first lingam puja at 7pm. All-night chanting begins at 10pm with the next lingam puja, another puja at 1am, and finally ends with the final lingam puja at 4am. Later in the morning we have the Maha Shivaratri fire ceremony at 10am followed by a meal.

This celebration is a favorite of many with the strong Shiva energy and so much chanting and dancing. We usually have 50 or more in attendance. The significance of the four offerings made in the pujas throughout the night is the following:

1st Puja at 7pm - Milk is for the blessing of purity and pioussness.

2nd Puja 10pm - Yogurt is for prosperity and progeny.

3rd Puja at 1am - Honey is offered for sweetness and sweet speech.

4th Puja at 4am - Ghee is for victory.

According to legend, Lord Shiva declared this day as his most favorite. He also laid down the steps to be followed in the performance of the rituals in his honor to Goddess Parvati, his divine consort. She repeated them to her friends who then passed them on to all the ruling princes on earth. Thus, the sanctity of Shivaratri was broadcast all over the world and is still observed.

Many people also wear a Rudraksha Mala (prayer beads made with seeds of the Rudraksha tree), particularly on this day. The Rudraksha tree is said to have sprung from the tears of Lord Shiva and is considered to be very sacred.



A magnificent light is the indication or identity of Lord Shiva, and the Shiva Lingam is considered to be the symbol of it. Hence, the formal worship on Maha Shivratri consists of bathing the Shiva Lingam. Lord Shiva is said to be burning with the fire of austerity, and so only items that have a cooling effect are offered to Him.

On Maha Shivaratri, many people fast for the whole day and night; a ritual that is believed to give great merit to the worshipper. The puja is done four times during the night. The whole night is divided into four "prahars", or quarters, of three hours each. The observance of all these rituals is said to give one happiness in this and the next world.

Although there is not a lot of sleeping on this night, people do like to reserve rooms or space in the dorm for this night. Please call the Ashram at 719-256-4108 to reserve a place.

Spring Navrati - April 10 - 18

The dorm is almost booked for the Saturday night of Navratri already, but we still have room for the other nights and dormitory spaces for men and women. It is such a special time with daily fire ceremonies, pujas, discourses, aaratis, and chanting and we love to share it with you.

Call us at 719-256-4108 or email us at info@babajashram.org for more information or to make a reservation.



Family Week Opportunity!

As we announced last month, this year's Family Week is running from Tuesday, July 30 through Friday, August 2. We are happy to announce that Sarah and Amil Wood will once again be leading the children's programs with a team of other teachers, allowing the adults to focus on the profound workshop led by Sofia Diaz each year. We all had such a blessed time last year!

On top of all this we have been offered financial support for one or two families that otherwise could not afford to attend. This support could include transportation costs, financial donation for staying at the Ashram (children are always free), and any extra costs (horseback riding, swimming

pool and Sand Dunes). If you are interested in availing your family of this wonderful opportunity, please email us at info@babajiashram.org or call us at 719-256-4108. We are so grateful to be able to offer this kind of support for this wonderful program.



Stay in Touch with Babaji Programs in India



For nearly three years now there have been actual pictures and blogs daily from India taken at the holy places of Babaji's Ashrams in the north of India in the foothills of The Himalayas. This includes the reports and actual news of the holy festivals that were happening there.

Since last year LIVESTREAMS have been sending these moments around the world: to New Zealand, Asia, Europe, Canada, United States, Argentina, and even Africa. This is a wonderful way to unite all of the continents.

Visit www.planetbabaji.com and enjoy several photo and festival blogs, daily new words from the *Teachings of Shri Babaji*, and to get in touch with India ...

Karma Yoga at the Ashram

During this time of year, much of the karma yoga maintaining the Ashram is cutting fire wood, preparing for and hosting the twice-monthly fire ceremonies, and taking care of all the systems. With the unusually long spell of below freezing temperatures, this year we also had to contend with freezing pipes in the hot water system in the earthship and the grey-water system in the dormitory. Fortunately, both could be remedied with diligence and without costly repairs.

We did have a group of students here from Colorado College doing karma yoga, and we are so grateful. We appreciate all of your help, your prayers, and support for all of this. 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 at 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.

Recent Events

Fire Ceremony Workshop in Pasadena, CA

Twelve of us gathered for a beautiful Saturday in Pasadena to delve into the significance and specifics of performing sacred fire ceremonies. This day always flies by with so much interest, energy, and devotion but much gets accomplished as well. There was a group from Santa Fe, NM attending who plan to do fires on a regular basis. The group around Pasadena, CA also plans to do regular ceremonies, and Randi in Corona, CA also now feels confident to perform them at her home.

We are so grateful to Echo for allowing us to bless her home with both Shri Babaji's padukas and the fire ceremony workshop; it is a great center for Baba's light.



Ceremonies in Yorba Linda, San Jose and Davis, CA

We had some lovely fire ceremonies in January in California. In San Jose we were not allowed to perform one due to a ban on fires because of air pollution. Nirmal and Indira Sharma still led us in a beautiful puja to the Shiva Lingam. Coming together for any reason in Shri Babaji's name is always such a blessing.



Makar Sankrant Baths and Fire Ceremony

Since Makar Sankrant fell on a Monday, the celebrations were smaller. There was still a small fire ceremony in Encinitas, CA and very cold but beautiful Makar Sankrant baths in Newport Beach and Encinitas.



Friends and Families

Fewer guests at the Ashram this time of year but we certainly see many friends on the road!





Calendar for 2013

February 10 - New-moon fire ceremony at 10am followed by a meal.

February 14 - Shri Babaji's Mahasamadhi with a paduka puja at 5:30pm followed by aarati.

Friday, February 15 at 7:30pm - Smita and Prabohd Telang's home at 3068 143rd Ave, Thornton (sometimes it comes up as Brighton), CO 80602. You may call them at 720-250-6325 to RSVP and for more information.

Saturday, February 16 at 11:30am - Monika and Sumit Celly's home at 2840 Helnsdale Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80920. You may call them at 719-533-1579 to RSVP and for more information.

Sunday, February 17 at 11am - Shashi and Bipin Agarwal's home at 4 Redhawk Run, Englewood, CO 80113. This will include a fire ceremony. Please call them at 303-523-8627 to RSVP and for more information.

Sunday, February 17 at 6pm - Sabina and Ajay Pradham's home at 4834 S. Eagle Circle, Aurora, CO 80015. Please call them at 720-732-6141 to RSVP and for more information.

Wednesday, February 20 at 10am - Fire Ceremony at Sacred Lands at 1620 Park Street North, St. Petersburg, Florida 33710 (for parking use 1700 Park St. N). Call Jeffrey and Sharda at 727-363-0800 for more information.

Wednesday, February 20 at 7pm - Chanting and images and stories of Babaji at Sacred Lands at 1620 Park Street North, St. Petersburg, Florida 33710 (for parking use 1700 Park St. N). Call Jeffrey and Sharda at 727-363-0800 for more information.

Thursday, February 21 at 10am - Fire Ceremony at The Longhouse on 49th Street, Inc. 2309 49th Street S, Gulfport FL 33707). Call Jeffrey and Sharda at 727-363-0800 for more information.

Friday, February 22 at 7:30pm - Paduka Puja, chanting and stories of Babaji at Bob Walsh's home at 415 Alhambra, Coral Gables 33134. Call Bob at 954-873-8083 for more information.

Saturday, February 23 at 11am - Fire Ceremony at Olga Lucia Toro's home at 909 Sanctuary Cove Dr, North Palm Beach, FL 33410. For more information please call Elaine at 561-277-8326.

Saturday, February 23 at 7pm - Chanting and stories of Babaji at Transformational Studies at 900 E. Indiantown Road #310, Jupiter, FL 33477. Call Jim at 561-371-2832 for more information.

Sunday, February 24 at 11am - Paduka puja, fire ceremony, aarati, chanting and pot luck in Delray Beach at Sal and Sarena Morello's home. Call 561-274-0883 for more information.

Monday, February 25 at 8am - Fire Ceremony in Alachua, Florida. Call 719-480-5514 for more information.

March 10 - All-night chanting for Maha Shivaratri. Aarati is at 6pm with first lingam puja at 7pm. All-night chanting begins at 10pm with next lingam puja and goes until 4am.

March 11 - Maha Shivaratri fire ceremony at 10am, followed by a meal.

April 10 - 18 - Spring Navratri - Divine Mother Festival with daily fire ceremonies, pujas, discourses, reading, chanting and other ceremonies.

July 22 - Guru Purnima

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

The Maha Lakshmi Shop has received some new items for fire ceremonies and puja. The copper havan kunds measure 11.5" square and cost \$54. We also have them 10" square with a metal stand and wooden spoon for \$54. We have lovely new aarati lamps that measure 7" by 2.5" with wooden handles that sale for \$12.



If



you are getting ready for Shivaratri, you may also want one of our

Rudraksha malas (ranging from \$12 - 27). The photo of Lord Shiva shown above is available from the Shop.

We also have the books mentioned earlier. *The Untethered Soul* by Michael Singer is \$16.95, and *In Perfect Timing* by Peter Caddy is \$28 (it is a hardback book).

All of these are available on our Shop website at <http://mahalakshnishop.wazala.com/>

You are also still welcome to call us and ask about all of the wonderful items in the Shop. You may call every day from 10am until 5pm Mountain Time at 719-256-4108 with your questions or to place an order with a credit card like in the olden days. It is really nice to connect in this way; we love to talk to you. We accept Visa, MasterCard or Discover.



The Shop is a major support of the Ashram, so we deeply appreciate your patronage.
Maha Lakshmi Mata Ki Jai!

