

Haidakhandi Universal Ashram

September, 2005

Mission Statement:

We aspire to live the teachings of Haidakhan Baba, to hold this Ashram as His home, to serve humanity, and to be stewards and caretakers of the land.

An Inspiring Dedication by Ramloti

What a wonderful time we had together as devotees from around the world gathered at the Ashram to dedicate and bless the beautiful new kirtan hall in June. Over 12 countries were represented at the blissful celebration.

The Vastu Puja, conducted by Shri Alok Banerjee from

Allahabad, India was very powerful. As the small havan fire burned inside the kirtan hall at the completion of the puja, it felt as if any bad vibrations were burnt away.

The aaratis, kirtan, and fire ceremonies were also most beautiful and enlivening. Shri Babaji was certainly present in His ethereal Body at all times. We are so grateful to all the devotees who served and made these ceremonies so perfect.

On the final day of the dedication, over 200 people joined in the kirtan hall to bless it. Each of the neighboring spiritual communities had

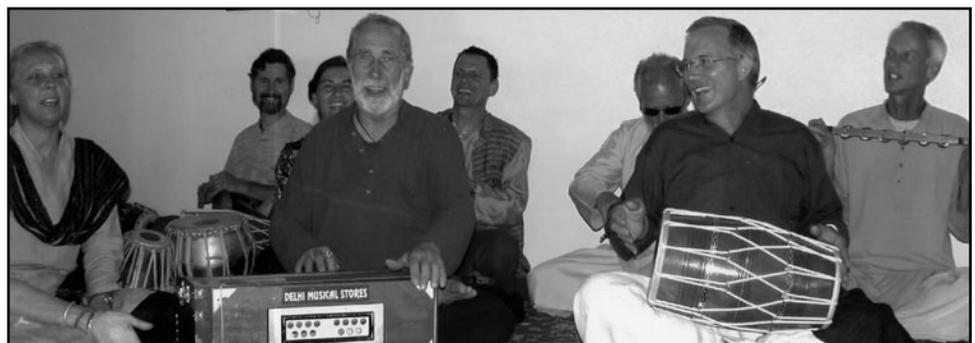
been invited to come and bestow a blessing for the new hall from their tradition. It was magnificent and moving, beyond words.



Prayer, song, drumming, and ceremony from the Native American, Zen Buddhist, Shinji Shumeikai, Catholic Carmelite,

Subud, Sai Ma, Sufi, Sri Aurobindo, Tibetan Buddhist, and Babaji tradition filled the hall. Although lunch was ready and all were probably hungry by 1pm, everyone stood up and began dancing and chanting to Jai Ma in joy and unity. As I said, it was beyond words!

Thank you to all for helping to bring heaven to earth.



Summer Events at the Ashram

So much has gone on at the Ashram this summer. It has truly become a center of love and light for so many people. There have been baby blessings, ceremonies for a child's first bite of rice and learning his first letters and many birthdays. Retirees from neighboring spiritual centers have come for aarati and chanting. We just are having more and more people come here.



Family Week at the Ashram co-sponsored by the American Haidakhan Samaj was great. With over ten families participating, we found it necessary to divide the youth into two groups.

The older group (ages 9 through 13), took an all-day hike, went horseback riding, learned some Taiko drumming, attended a sweat lodge, learned about the five elements, went to the Sand Dunes and the Sand Dunes swimming pool, did lots of karma yoga, learned some chants, and made their own journals and wrote in them by the creek.

The younger group (ages 3 through 7) made sacred candles, Ganesh statues, frames for Divine Mother photos, and drawings. They also went horseback riding, learned some Taiko drumming, attended a sweat lodge, went to the Sand Dunes and the Sand Dunes swimming pool, did lots of karma yoga, and learned some chants.

On the last day, the families joined with the Crestone community for a softball game.

Running at the same time as the youth program was our Annual Workshop on the Sacred Fire Ceremony and Puja. This year we had speakers presenting each of the five elements. It was a very profound time. Sitting together focused on these sacred rituals that Shri Babaji gave to us brings them to life more fully in our hearts. If you were unable to attend this year, mark your calendar for the last week of July to attend next year. It is truly a remarkable experience.

Kirtan Hall Financial Report

We are very happy to announce that our loan to complete the kirtan hall is steadily being paid down. In order to complete everything and also redo the inside and outside of the existing temple (after 15 years it was more than ready) we spent over \$335,000. Initially, we had to borrow \$127,000 in two loans at very good interest rates (3% and 6%). We are grateful for everyone's continued support. The loan now stands at only \$101,000! We invite you to continue to help us pay down our loan. Your purchases from the Maha Lakshmi Shop help too. Thank you.

Fall Navratri and Diwali

In this world of strife and difficulties, we still have so many things for which to be grateful, particularly at the Ashram.

Each fall and spring, we set aside nine days to specially honor and thank the Divine Mother. This year, Fall Navratri runs from Tuesday, October 4 through Wednesday, October 12. Every day we have a special puja, readings, chanting, and a large fire ceremony followed by a discourse on the Divine Mother and a meal. On the last day, we honor the children and have a large feast. Last Navratri, we had over 150 people attend the final day.

This is a magnificent time of year in the Colorado Rockies and we invite you to join us for all or any of the festival. If you are unable to be here in person, please be with us in your prayers and your thoughts. This festival is celebrated throughout the world and with hundreds of thousands of voices raised in

unison in prayer to our Divine Mother, the net results are felt throughout the cosmos in balance and peace. If you would like to

sponsor a fire ceremony or bhandara (feast) during that time, please fill in the coupon on this page of the newsletter and send it to the Ashram. You can also reach us by e-mail at our new address, info@BabajiAshram.org. Our toll-free phone number remains the same, 866-686-4185.



On Tuesday, November 1, we will celebrate Diwali, the Festival of Lights. Traditionally, the different spiritual groups join us in the evening and share songs of peace and light followed by desserts and a light dinner. The new-moon fire

ceremony is performed at 10:08am followed by a meal. The rest of the day is spent preparing the temple and grounds for the evening extravaganza. There are candles and lights aglow everywhere. It is a sight to behold. Please join us if you can.

Yes, I want to pay off the Kirtan Hall at the Haidakhandi Universal Ashram

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

My donation for the Kirtan Hall Fund \$ _____ Donation to the Ashram General Fund \$ _____

I'd like to Sponsor a Fire Ceremony during Fall Navratri (\$108) \$ _____ a Bhandara (\$108) \$ _____

Please send me a piece of Mother's Sari _____ Please send me Navratri Sacred Ash _____

Credit Card #: _____ (Visa, MC, or Discover) Exp Date: _____

Would you like to remain on the Ashram Mailing List? _____

Make checks payable to (HUA) Haidakhandi Universal Ashram and send to:
HUA • PO Box 9 • Crestone, CO 81131

All donations are tax deductible. Thank you for your support.

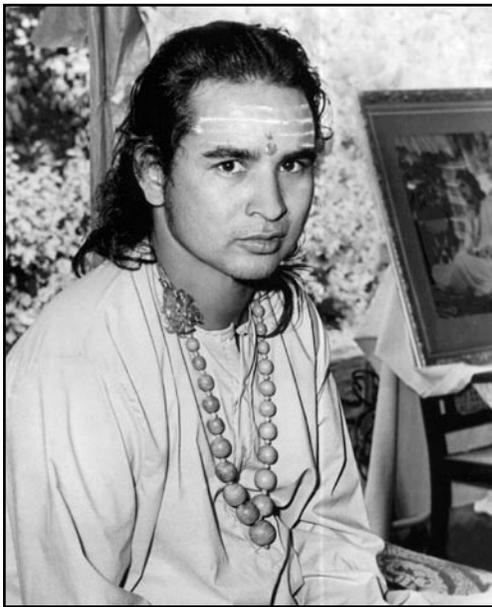
Maha Lakshmi Shop Report

The huge India shipment (30 crates!) arrived last month and the shop is full of wonderful new goods. Many new murtis and puja items were in the shipment. We are currently working on a new catalogue for the shop and hope to have it to you in October in plenty of time for your Christmas shopping. We are happy to drop ship Christmas presents for you.

Remember, every dollar you spend in the shop helps support the Ashram and its work, big time. Thank you so very much. You can access our updated (in process) web site at www.BabajiAshram.org. You can also e-mail the shop at our new e-mail address, shop@BabajiAshram.org. It is also still possible to speak to a real, live human being and ask all your questions on our toll-free number at 866-685-4185.

Mark Your Calendar

October 4 - 12 Fall Navratri - Festival of the Divine Mother, daily fire ceremony, and puja
November 1 Diwali - Festival of Lights, fire ceremony, and evening chanting & dessert
February 26 Maha Shivaratri
Mar 29 - April 6 Spring Navratri



Haidakhandi Universal Ashram

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*"I have told you that I will bring heaven down to earth and today you all are eyewitnesses to his fact....The place you can see today, is due to those who have done penance here. In the name of Lord Ram, what is here today is the outcome of your hard labor and sadhana."
Shri Babaji, August 16, 1983.*



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