

Haidakhandi Universal Ashram Newsletter

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January, 2014

Dear Friends,

In a pre-Christmas speech in 1981, Shri Babaji said the following. "Everyone should forget nationality; we are all one here. This is a universal family." How those words rang in my heart this last month. Although I often feel like family with the many people who came to the Ashram, it was particularly pronounced while Bhaskaranand and Maheshanand were here. Right from the beginning of the two-week visit of our Dutch friends from Sada Shiva Dham Ashram it was apparent that we all came from the same stock. As we sang together, did fire ceremonies and pujas together, worked together, and discussed together: there was just so much harmony, joy, and ease. It is a wonderful thing about our Babaji family that we can travel throughout the world and sing the same aarati, perform the same pujas and fire ceremonies, and share karma yoga.

And then this feeling of oneness expanded as we traveled to the other spiritual centers in Crestone. The love and warmth with which we were received was deeply moving and sharing in some of their prayers made us feel at home. When we traveled to the Hanuman Temple in Taos, New Mexico we were joyfully greeted and invited to lead some Hanuman Chalisas in their temple before lunch. One of the members there accompanied my harmonium playing with drumming and about a dozen of us sang our hearts out with love for Hanuman. Sharing the delicious lunch they had prepared for us and stories about our three Ashrams made the afternoon fly by in delight.

We then headed for Santa Fe where a group of about a dozen devotees gathered on a day or two notice to sing aarati, chant, and share Baba stories. Oh, it felt like the roof might lift off with all the shakti. Even the Catholic cathedral in Santa Fe was practicing my favorite Christmas Carol, "Oh Holy Night", which we sat and listened to. When we came to the Sikh Gurdwara in Espanola, it was locked, but a kind man appeared who knew about the Crestone Ashram, and he let us in.

And so it went on and on until the capper was when Aditya Kapoor, a long-time Baba devotee from India arrived with his son Vishwapratap. Sharing stories of his experiences in Haidakhan made us all feel Babaji's presence so deeply. The amount of times that he compared this Ashram here in Crestone to Haidakhan and the way certain things happened that reminded him of how Babaji would



With deep love,
Ramloti

orchestrate things was thought provoking and astounding.

We are all one universal family and it is spreading everywhere. As Babaji went on to say: "Have no idea of separation of identity; discard feelings of separateness. Serve the people with mind, body, wealth, and brain." May this year be full of universal love for all of humanity.

Ceremonies and Schedule

The full-moon fire ceremony this month is on Wednesday, January 15 and the new-moon fire ceremony is on Thursday, January 30. They will both be at 11am to reflect the later aarati time during the month of January. (They will move back to 10:08am in February.) The fire ceremonies 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 hearty before our meal at 11:30 or so, please partake.

Our evening aarati is at 6pm and morning aarati will be at 8am during the month of January due to the cold and dark, with a paduka puja in Shri Babaji's kutir at 7:30am. Lunch is served at about 1pm, 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 will send you a blessed item from the fire ceremony if you request. 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.

Bal Golulam - Children's Program **Saturday, January 4 - 10:30am - noon**

Children of all ages are invited to join us tomorrow morning for yoga, stories, crafts and a puja honoring Maha Lakshmi. This is followed by a potluck at noon. All children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information call Ramloti at 719-256-4108.

The last one was very sweet, here are some photos from it.



Maha Lakshmi Stotram with words now on Youtube

As we wrote about last month, Bijay and Sony Yerra led us in a wonderful day on the Maha

Lakshmi Stotram. He has put the recitation of the stotram with words to follow on Youtube. You may find it at <http://www.youtube.com/bijayyerra> It is beautiful and has this Divine photo of Mother from that day.

Here is the wish that Bijay sent for the New Years.

"May you see the glories of Maa in every moment of your time as it unfolds. May She grip your heart and never let it go. The moon waxes and then wanes. Same with the waves of ocean - the waves come and then recede. It's said in scriptures, once the bhakti grips a devotee - the emotions of love come in wave after wave. Only the difference here is there is no waning, no receding. This increases in size and grandeur. There is nothing else in this life worth accomplishing. Every thing pales in comparison with this kind of bhakti. May Maa grant you this bhakti - after which nothing remains to be accomplished. This is my prayer to Maa and my new year wish for you."

We are so excited to have another day of inspiration and teaching, this time in the Denver area. It will be on Saturday, February 22 from 10am - 2pm with Bijay and Sony Yerra on the Annapurna Stotram. It will be at their home at 6411 S. Jericho Circle, Centennial, CO 80016. For more information you may call Bijay and Sony at: 267-218-2307. Jai Ma!



Sofia Diaz joins Ramloti and other Devotees in Florida

The programs in Florida are always inspirational and amazing and this year they will be even more so with Sofia Diaz joining us and conducting two workshops on "The Space Between the Inhale and the Exhale." We will also be having a fire ceremony workshop at Northwood, a five acre woodland retreat facility, with 100 year old trees, 30 miles north of Tampa. Other fire ceremonies will be at Sacred Lands Preserve in St. Petersburg, on Treasure Island overlooking the ocean, at Harmony House in Delray Beach, and on the beach in Jupiter. We certainly will be joining the beauty of Nature with the beauty of the Sacred Fire. There will also be chanting evenings on both sides of Florida. Read below for dates and more information. We have folks flying in from all around the country for this warm and wonderful time. You may call Ramloti at the Ashram at 719-256-4108 to find out how you can be a part of all of this too.

West Side of Florida

January 12 - Fire Ceremony workshop* (from 11am until 4pm) at Northwood Retreat Center, 30 miles north of Tampa. [Click here for registration.](#)

January 13 - Fire Ceremony 11am at Sacred Lands, 1700 Park St N, St Petersburg, FL 33710 - call Sharda at 727-363-0800 for more information.

January 13 - 7pm Chanting & Slides - Sacred Lands, 1700 Park St N, St Petersburg, FL 33710 - call Sharda at 727-363-0800 for more information.

January 14 - Makar Sankrant** All-day (beginning at 10am) Celebration with paduka puja, fire ceremony, chanting, Makar Sankrant plunge and workshop by Sofia Diaz on "The Space Between the Inhale and Exhale" (see below) at Sharda and Jeffrey's in Treasure Island, FL. - call Sharda at 727-363-0800 for more information.

East Side of Florida

January 16 - 7pm Chanting & Slides at Walsh Chiropractic, 416 Se 11Th Ct, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316 - call Bob Walsh at 954-873-8083.

January 17 - 1pm - 6pm - Workshop with Sofia Daiz on "The Space Between the Inhale and Exhale" (see below) at Harmony House in Delray, FL. call Sarena at 561-274-0883.

January 18 - Fire Ceremony and Chanting at 11am at Olga Lucia Toro's at 909 Sanctuary Cove Dr, North Palm Beach, FL 33410. For more information, please call Elaine at 561-277-8326.

January 18 - 7pm Chanting & Slide at Transformational Studies at 900 E. Indiantown Road #310, Jupiter, FL 33477. Call Jim at 561-371-2832 for more information.

January 19 - 11am Fire Ceremony & Aarati & potluck at Harmony House in Delray, FL. - call Sarena at 561-274-0883 for more information.

* The Fire Ceremony Workshop is an all-day immersion in the fire ceremony. The day will begin at 11am with a fire ceremony and chanting. We will then spend the rest of the day learning about the history and significance of the sacred fire, as well as learn each step to perform a simple fire ceremony of your own. There are accommodations in the area for those who are flying in for the workshop.



**Makar Sankrant in India is said to be the time that the sun begins its upward journey, strengthening, expanding, and uplifting of our spiritual endeavors. It is a time of great significance and marks the beginning of auspicious times. The beginning of the period, when the sun travels northwards, is considered highly favorable for auspicious activities. Shri Babaji said that on this day, no negative energies are present on the earth. It is a day for a sacred fire and plunge, and a very beneficial day to gain new teachings to delve deeply

inside.

"The Space Between the Inhale and Exhale"

During this workshop, world renowned teacher, facilitator, lineage holder, and yoga extraordinaire, Sofia Diaz (website is SofiaYoga.com), will lead us through that mystical space that Makar Sankrant opens for us. Here is what she says about the day:

"At this extraordinary time when our universe is suspended at the top of an Inhale, when all previous action is non-existent and possibility is pregnant with sheer potential, sublimely free of egoic intent and contraction, let us



bask in the tangibility of MahaDevi, offering her celebratory conscious asanas, heart-breath and bodies smiling on Her beach of grace! Tamaso Ma Jyotirgamaya!!! May we go higher and higher to more and more light and never to confusion, even if physical darkness is the meal She chooses for us, all praises and always swimming in SRI, now and now and.... Forever! Bhole Baba ki Jai!!!”

Space will be limited for the workshops, which will be on both sides of Florida (Jan. 14 and 17). To register, call Ramloti at 719-256-4108. Suggested donation - \$54

Northern and Southern California Programs

It has become a tradition to do some winter programs in California as well as an all-day fire ceremony training. These are always special events with lots of participation. We hope you can join us at some or all of the locations.

January 26 - Fire Ceremony & Chanting in Sebastopol, CA at James & Betsy's at 3696 Burnside Rd., Sebastopol, CA 95472 - call 707-824-0342 for more information.

February 8 - Fire Ceremony workshop* at Echo's, 3210 Lombardy, Pasadena, CA, 90017 from 11am until 4pm. Call Randi at 951-808-1010 to register and for more information.

February 9 - Fire Ceremony, chanting, and pot luck lunch at Randi and Howard Rubin's, 4492 Signature Dr., Corona, CA 92883 at 11am followed by lunch. Call Randi at 951-808-1010 for more information.

* The Fire Ceremony Workshop is an all-day immersion in the fire ceremony. The day will begin at 11am with a fire ceremony and chanting. We will then spend the rest of the day learning about the history and significance of the sacred fire, as well as learn each step to perform a simple fire ceremony of your own. There are accommodations in the area for those who are flying in for the workshop.



Denver Area Programs

Around my birthday time, I like to gather with as many devotees as possible with Shri Babaji's padukas to chant and do a fire ceremony (assuming the weather is conducive). Please mark your calendars now so that we can all be together.

February 21 - 7pm - Paduka Puja and Chanting - Babaji's padukas will grace the home of Smita and Prabohd Telang's home at 3068 143rd Ave, Thornton, CO 80602. Call them at 720-250-6325 to RSVP or for more information.

February 22 - 10am - 2pm Satsang with Bijay and Sony Yerra on the Annapurna Stotram at 6411 S. Jericho Circle, Centennial, CO 80016. For more information call: 267-218-2307

Feburay 22 - 6pm - Paduka Puja and Chanting - Babaji's padukas will grace the home of Sabina and Ajay Pradham at 4834 S. Eagle Circle, Aurora, CO 80015. Call them at 720-732-6141 to RSVP or for more information.

February 23 - 11am Paduka Puja, Fire Ceremony, and Chanting followed by Lunch. Babaji's padukas will grace the home of Satya and Nidhi Kothiyal's in Parker, CO. All are invited. Call them at 303-927-6895.

Gaura Devi undergoes Surgery

Gaura Devi served Babaji faithfully from 1971 until He left His body in 1984. She continued to live much of the time at the Ashram in India until she could no longer travel to there due to her Parkinsons disease. The disease has progressively gotten worse over the last fifteen years. She underwent a huge surgery in Milan, Italy last week. She is currently in rehab learning to walk and speak again. The shaking had become so debilitating that it was necessary to undergo this radical procedure. Many of you have read her amazing and inspirational story in her book, Fire of Transformation.

Please keep her in your prayers. Bhole Baba Ki Jai!



Karma Yoga at the Ashram





What a wonderful month of karma yogis arriving to help clean the dormitory, earthship, temple and Babaji's kutir.



With our kitchen staff taking extra days off for the holidays, it was great to have Bhaskaranand and Maheshanand here to help out with the cooking and clean up.

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.

Recent Events

Dutch Devotees Travel to the Ashram

What a wonderful two weeks it was hosting our Dutch friends, Bhaskarananda and Maheshanand, at the Ashram. Being a relatively quiet time at the Ashram, we had so many opportunities to share ideas, impressions, experiences and fun together. Taking them to many of the spiritual centers in Crestone while we were delivering our Christmas bread was a treat. We even took them to New Mexico to visit the Hanuman Temple, the Sikh Gurdwara, and St. Frances Cathedral. We also joined with our Santa Fe devotees for a beautiful evening of aarati, chanting, and satsang.

It was so inspiring to hear the tale of their Sada Shiva Dham Ashram in Holland and for them to hear our story. Although different of course, many themes were the same. Many hearts joined together in faith and love of Babaji creating the near impossible. I believe a deep and rich understanding and appreciation of one another came from this special time together. Here are some of their impressions.

"Thanks for the beautiful time we enjoyed at your Ashram. It has been an overwhelming experience to be here for almost two weeks. Our visit, of Maheshanand and me, was an outcome of the auction at Sada Shiva Dham in 2012, where the Crestone Ashram offered a two week stay at the Haidakhandi Universal Ashram. Luckily, I can say now, I 'won' this auction and as a result went in the third week of December, 2013 to Crestone.

From Denver airport, where Shashi Agarwal waited to receive us, everything went smoothly. We stayed overnight in Denver and the next early morning we went with Bipin Agarwal to the Ashram, a 4 hour drive. At arrival the full-moon havan was just about to begin, so we could sit right away at the havan, and a better spiritual welcome I could not have imagined.



At this time in December not many people stayed at the Ashram, only Ramloti, Prem, and Jonathan. It was a good occasion to come in this quiet time and to learn to know the Ashram and the people there.

The main murti in the temple is a big Mother murti representing Haidakhandeswari Ma, with all attributes from Laksmi, Durga, Saraswati, Mother Maria, and other devis. I could feel Her love and connection all around. Babaji was also very present and to enjoy the daily Paduka Puja at Babaji's feet was highly fulfilling. At night time the Paduka's stayed in the beautifully made Babaji kutir and during daytime they were in the temple, in the company of the Holy Mother.

Christmas Eve was a time that visitors from other centers in Crestone joined the Ashram staff and

other Babaji devotees to sing together Christmas carols in the temple. We even sang a few Dutch songs. Together with Ramloti, we visited many other spiritual centers in the area to bring Mother's Love and Christmas wishes, nicely expressed with the gift of special Christmas cakes made in the Ashram. These visits were also an excellent opportunity to learn about the other centers and the people there. It was lovely to see how everybody from all kinds of different paths, for instance Carmelites, a number of Buddhist centers, a Japanese Shumei institute, a Zen center, the Hanuman temple in Taos, live in harmony and appreciate each other. It felt like there were invisible cords from the Holy Mother in the Ashram to each one of the other centers to support and encourage them.



"To summarize I can say that it was a wonderful time and I would like to encourage people from other Babaji



ashrams and center's in the world to visit and take some time to be at this ashram and participate in its programs. I would even suggest that people go in more quiet or normal times instead of times with great events. In this way it seems easier to me to see how the Ashram is functioning at its heart. AND the Crestone Ashram has a big and refined HEART!!! “

Bhole Baba ki jai! Bhaskaranand

From Maheshanand

“The last two weeks of 2013 we spent at the Ashram and looking back it seems to be that we were there for ages. There were visits to holy places, spiritual centers, karma yoga, learning, and the list is far from complete. From beginning till end we felt so much warmth (outside it must have been over 10 degree celcius under zero and 50 cm snow!) It was a beautiful visit in your ashram and meeting with so many beautiful people, your staff and visitors as well!!

“I feel it was a great honor to be there and to have all those spiritual lessons. This trip will stay for ever on my soul.”



Shami Kapoor's Son and Grandson Visit the Ashram

Aditya and Vishwapratap Kapoor visited the Ashram for two days over the holidays. What a surprise to hear the voice from the distant past on the phone. Aditya called saying that he was in Houston, Texas visiting his son and wanted to see the Ashram. He had heard so much about this Ashram since his auntie was one of the founders, but living in India, had never had the opportunity to see it.

It was fortuitous that it was during our Dutch devotees' visit so they could also take in the huge amount of stories that Aditya shared with us about his time with Shri Babaji. It seemed like one long satsang and it was particularly enjoyable because his perspective was that of a teenage young man that Baba pulled very close to Him. It was also quite amusing at times as he is the son of a famous movie star and was used to big-city living and society. Finding himself far away from his friends and conveniences for a month at a time in the jungle of Haidakhan was, to say the least, life-changing. It was a wonderful time for all and we look forward to their next visit.



Here is a video he made of his visit. <https://www.facebook.com/aditya.r.kapoor.3?ref=ts>

Christmas, Birthdays, and Visitors to the Ashram

December was definitely a quieter month with the cold temperatures and snow. Still we had a lovely Christmas together with about 25 of us gathered for Christmas carols and dinner.



The chairman of our Board of Directors, Paul, celebrated his birthday with us and of course was helped by his two lovely daughters, Sage and Aisha to blow out the candle!



Others came for visits, for lunch, and for fire ceremonies. We can never take everyone's photo but we do appreciate and enjoy everyone's visit.





Calendar for Events at the Ashram in 2014

February 28 - Shivaratri - All-night chanting followed by a fire ceremony at 10am on March 1.

March 30 - April 7 - Spring Navratri - Divine Mother Festival with daily fire ceremonies, pujas, discourses, reading, chanting and other ceremonies.

July 12 - Guru Purnima

July 19 & 20- Annual American Haidakhan Samaj Weekend and Meeting. Their new web address is www.babajisamaj.us

July 23 - 26 - Annual Family Week w/ concurrent Sofia Diaz Workshop.

September 23 - October 1, 2014 - Fall Navratri - Divine Mother Festival with daily fire ceremonies, pujas, discourses, reading, chanting and other ceremonies.

October 23, 2014 - Diwali, Festival of Lights.

Maha Lakshmi Shop Report

We still have a few of the new 2014 Babaji calendars they are beautiful. Here is the [PDF of the calendar](#). Because we have such a limited supply, we did not put them on our website. The calendar sells for \$18 plus shipping. Please call us at 719-256-4108 if you would like to order one before they run out of stock.

We have redone the Maha Lakshmi Shop website making it more easy for you to navigate. Please take a look at www.mahalakshmiashop.wazala.com and give us some feedback.

The Maha Lakshmi Shop is well stocked. We can bless an item at Mother's feet for you you ask. Many of our Shop items are on line, but some are not. You may still call the Ashram at 719-256-4108 and place your orders over the phone (every day from 10am until 5pm Mountain Time). We are happy to answer any questions. It is really nice to connect in this way. We take Visa, Mastercard or Discover.

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

Maha Lakshmi Mata Ki Jai!