

Haidakhandi Universal Ashram Newsletter

Connect with the Ashram



www.babajashram.org

August, 2014

Dear Friends,

Writing this part of the newsletter each month gives me a chance to check in and see what is stirring in my soul. At this time it is the dichotomy of life that is very apparent to me. As we all joyfully celebrated Guru Purnima in Switzerland and then swam in the bliss of Family Week, there was the over hanging horror of what is happening in the Middle East and other parts of the world. We were constantly remembering the people in our prayers and ceremonies and many of us are donating funds to the various charitable venues. But it is all so confusing and overwhelming. What are the correct steps to take? What can an individual do? Is it important or appropriate to still be happy and celebrate while so many are suffering? I am a strong believer in the importance of being grateful for what we do have and we certainly have an immense amount of beauty, harmony, and love at the Ashram.

During Family Week another dichotomy was discussed frequently. This was the challenge of integrating spiritual life into the world where often few are interested in the same values. We heard stories from many generations of the difficulties and pain that can arise from this feeling of not quite fitting in to the material world or trying to change so that we are more accepted by the status quo. I certainly remember growing up and feeling not a part of the "in group" because I found what was so important to them was not meaningful to me. I would rather slip off to church and attend mass. Even today, particularly when I am on a family vacation, I sometimes question whether I am a bit crazy to have so much faith in the Divine and such little attachment for the material things of life.

So this month of coming together with so many people has been a time of introspection for me. I am actually feeling very soft at this point, sort of like an old pair of flannel pajamas feel after going through the wash many times. Yes I feel like I have been through the washer a bit and what has come out is a beautiful and deeper feeling of connection with all beings. I have actually found great solace and answers in the daily fire ceremony. As I sit in the early morning offering prayers and support to all of the aspects of the creation, I understand on a visceral level that we are all so connected. I know that the prayers I say at the little havan kund in Crestone are felt throughout the cosmos. Some of the final offerings are invoking and nurturing the deities that watch over ourselves, our families, our villages, and our homes. As I offered these prayers the other morning, I had such a clear experience that I was offering this for all of the beings of the world. I realized that the daily fire ceremony here at the



Ashram that seems to have brought so much life-giving rain to Crestone can also bring rain to the drought-ridden areas around the country and around the world. That our prayer to support the deities that watch over our village of Crestone can be extended

to all the villages and cities of the world. In a like manner to all of the deities that guide and protect all of the people and families of the world. May there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

With deep love,

Ramloti

Ceremonies and Schedule

The full-moon fire ceremony this month is on Sunday, August 10 and the new-moon fire ceremony is on Monday, August 25. 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 hearty 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 at 6:30am. We have a small fire ceremony daily at 8am. Lunch is served at about 12:30pm, 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 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 Om Haidakhandi 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.

Janmashtami - Lord Krishna's Birthday - August 17



The birthday of Lord Krishna will be celebrated at the Ashram this year on Sunday, August 17. We will have a small fire ceremony at 8am followed by pujas to Lord Krishna, stories, and chanting. This will be followed by breakfast. We are fortunate to have Nirmal and Indira Sharma flying in for the occasion for California. Both of these long-time devotees are steeped in stories of Babaji (whom they both meant) and of course Lord Krishna. We hope you can join us on this festive day. Call the Ashram at 719-256-4108 or email us at info@babajiashram.org if you have questions or would like to book a room for that weekend.

Fall Navratri (Divine Mother Festival) - Sept. 25 through Oct. 3



The Divine Mother and Shri 1008 Haidakhan Baba cordially invite you to Fall Navratri at the Ashram from Thursday, September 25 through Friday, October 3. We are excited to celebrate these special nine days with the new murti of Old Haidakhan Babaji present for the first time. Each day is rich with pujas, readings, discourses, fire ceremonies, aarati, paduka pujas, and chanting. The rooms in the dorm for Saturday night, September 27 are already booked but there is room in the yurt (no electricity or plumbing) and we can also put your name on the waiting list. There is plenty of room all of the other nights. It is a magnificent time together in Mother and Baba's beautiful home in the Rockies. Please join us if you are able for all or part of it. Call us at 719-256-4108 or email us at info@babajiaashram.org. Haidakhandeswari Mata Ki Jai!

Diwali - Festival of Lights

It is not too soon to put this wonderful festival on your calendar. It is the festival of lights which falls this year on Thursday, October 23. Celebrating the victory of light over darkness, it is a night when we invite all of the spiritual communities in Crestone to share a song of peace and light with us. The special day begins with the new-moon fire ceremony at 10am followed by a meal. We then spend the rest of the day decorating the temple, earthship, and grounds with hundreds of candles and lights. In the kitchen we are busy preparing delicious treats and a light dinner for after the chanting. The evening begins with aarati at 6pm followed by chants of peace and light at 7pm and food at 8pm. We hope you can join us for this special night. Call us at 719-256-4108 or email us at info@babajashram.org with questions or to make a reservation.

Movie Manor Fundraiser for the Ashram - Sat & Sun, Nov. 8 & 9

We are excited to announce a different and fun fundraiser for the Ashram at a hotel in Monte Vista (15 minutes west of Alamosa) named Movie Manor. The reason for the name is that it also includes a drive-in theater that you can view and hear from your hotel room. (One of a kind in the United States.) It is owned by a couple of Indian families that frequent the Ashram and they were happy and excited to support this idea by donating 45 or so rooms for us to use.



We are planning for the weekend of Nov. 8 and 9. The idea would be to bring many families from the front range and New Mexico for a weekend of kirtan, puja, aarati, a classic Indian movie, dinner, and breakfast (even a fire ceremony and maybe some cricket, if the weather is conducive).

The donation for the room, dinner, breakfast, movie, chai, snacks, and to support the Ashram is only \$216 per room. It should be great fun, inspirational and also a great community builder. The families we have mentioned it to thus far have already signed up for rooms and volunteered to help cook some of the food.

So mark your calendars for that weekend to have wonderful time and to help support Mother and Baba's home in Crestone. You may also want to book your room soon, as it will probably fill up quickly. Call 719-256-4108 or email at info@babajashram.org

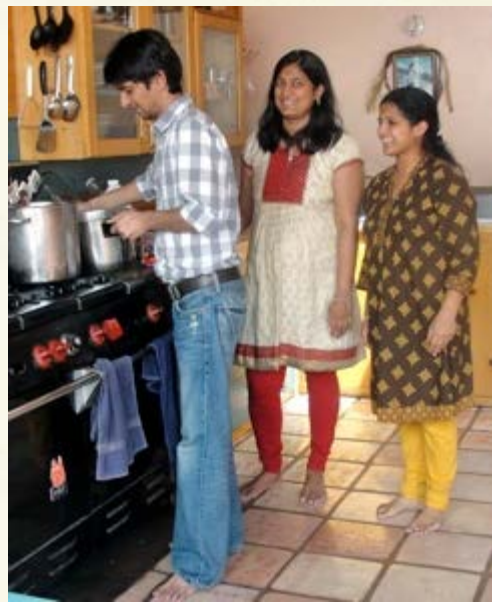
Karma Yoga at the Ashram

We have had lots of nourishing rain at the Ashram. Everything is very green and it is the first summer in years that we have not had a fire ban. We are grateful for all of the moisture and it seems that the trees are very happy too. Another prolific result of the rain are the copious amount of weeds and grasses all over the Ashram land. A large part of the karma yoga this month is

removing them so that they will not dry in the fall and become a large fire hazard. Dharmaanda is here for the summer and so screens for the fire ceremony kunds have been repaired, doors repaired, holes in the adobe floor repaired and on and on. He is beginning to work on the covers for the measuring weirs for the water system. We are always so grateful for all of his knowledgeable and loving service here at the Ashram.



The other huge karma yoga this month was all the visitors over Fourth of July weekend and then all the preparation for, running of, and cleaning up after for the Samaj weekend and the Annual Family Week. It was a blessed time together, lots of work, but allowed everyone to experience how working together is really a core teaching and joy of the Ashram.



We are so grateful to all of the those wh



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

Guru Purnima Celebrations

The international Guru Purnima Celebration in Switzerland was so special and full of shakti, love and devotion. It was a great treat to see Alok Banerjee, the chairman of the Haidakhan Samaj, who came all the way from India. America also had a big representation this year with Lok Nath, Gayatri, Hitzi, Maureen DeCosta, Shashi Agarwal, Sam Bull, and I. It was a great honor for me to offer the ghee at the second of the four large fire ceremonies. You can see from the photos that it was a tremendous event. Thank you to Sundar Singh and all the staff in Schwiebenalp for the extraordinary planning and orchestration of an event that had tons of rain and nearly 400 people on the weekend!





Here at the Ashram in Crestone, it was also a very beautiful time with about fifty people attending the fire ceremony after the paduka puja and puja to Old Haidakhan Babaji in the temple. We are so blessed. Bhole Baba Ki



Annual American Haidakhan Samaj Weekend

The Annual American Haidakhan Samaj Weekend was once again a time of inspiration and renewal of friendships with devotees from around the county. Many wonderful ideas were discussed to spread the love and teachings of Shri Babaji around the

country. To learn more about the Samaj and see more of the discussion please go to www.babajisamaj.us Here is a photo of the Board members present at the meeting.



Ashram Annual Family Week

Family Week, oh what a rich time for all of us! We were full beyond capacity and still we worked, prayed, sang, celebrated fire ceremonies, played, loved, and laughed together in such harmony. The daily family meetings were touching and just a great way to check in to make sure everyone was doing well and not harboring any unspoken poor feelings. The afternoon field trips were great fun and the evening aaratis so sweet with all the children participating.







We ended this year on the



new-moon fire ceremony. It was te



Wood had been married



at this new-moon fire ceremony so it



seemed fitting for them to renew their vows again at this one. Shatriji and Bhargavi came from Alamosa to lead the ceremony. It was beautiful and attended by nearly 100 people. Four of the attendees were Amil and Sarah's four little boys that

they now have. Once again, they ran the children's component of the Family Week and did a great job. Congratulations and a big thank you to them both!



Inner & Outer Fire Workshop with Sofia Diaz

The Workshop at Family Week this year facilitated by Sofia was totally amazing as usual. The topic of "The Inner and Outer Fire" rang through the temple as we looked at our deepest burnings both inside and out. It was very revealing and helpful for us all.

The Ashram is always tremendously grateful for this gift that Sofia gives to us each year facilitating this workshop. Nearly 30 people attended this transformational time together.

For more information about Sofia Diaz and her work around the world go to www.sofiayoga.com.



Lots of Visitors to the Ashram

It is summer and so many new and old friends are coming through the Ashram. Fourth of July seemed like one continual meal. We would just finish sitting with one table full of visitors when another group would show up with their food wanting us to share with them. It is a joyful time but we have learned long ago to only take a little food at each sitting as they can go on all afternoon! We have had a few groups of folks from the Shumei Center as well as plenty of groups of families. The Ashram is blessed by your presence. Unfortunately, there is no room for any photos of our visitors this month. I will try to include some next month.

Calendar for Events at the Ashram in 2014

September 25 - October 3, 2014 - Fall Navratri - Divine Mother Festival with daily fire ceremonies, pujas, discourses, readings, chanting, aaratis, and other ceremonies.

October 23, 2014 - Diwali, Festival of Lights.

Maha Lakshmi Shop Report

The Maha Lakshmi Shop has a new book in stock. It is Shri Divyakathamrit. It was written by Mahendra Baba and translated by Mahant Baba. The English is not so good but the book is inspiring. It sells for \$12.

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 open every day. We can bless an item at Mother's feet for you if you ask. You may 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!

