

Haidakhandi Universal Ashram

November, 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.

The Earth is Our Mother by Ramloti

I usually travel to India each year in November. After making all of the travel arrangements and purchasing tickets, I began to feel very deeply not to go. As I looked at the world environment and our mistreated Mother Earth, I could not bring myself to fly in an airplane (using tons of fuel), drive my car to Denver (more pollution), stay in hotels (more waste), drive in taxis and rickshaws (more pollution) drink water from plastic bottles, or even spend the money for the trip. Babaji said in one of His speeches, that we should not always come running to India but to spend that time and money helping humanity in some way in our own homes.

Although I do feel that it is important to stay in contact with our Indian Ashram and fellow devotees, I do not think a yearly trip is necessary for me at this point. Instead, I would like to spend that time helping others and finding ways for the Ashram here to be even more sustainable. We will continue to explore more ways we can conserve resources asking questions



such as: How can we cut down on trash, waste, purchasing prepackaged items, use of any plastic? How can we grow more food to feed more people, and spend more time in prayer for our environment, and for the millions of people suffering in our world?

One way to be less wasteful is to use the inter-net for our newsletters. Instead of the Shop catalogue, our website has all of our products. Please send us your e-mail address to our new address, info@babajiaashram.org if you would like to stay in touch with the Ashram. Those of you that have no access to computers, write or call and we will print you out a computer copy of the newsletter and mail it to you.

It feels good to just be here. We have had such a full spring, summer, and fall that at times I felt like I was running too fast for my own good and for the health of the Ashram. Just now I am taking the time to walk daily up to our beautiful Spanish Creek and express my gratitude for all of the magnificence we have here at the Ashram.

Ashram Events



Navratri by Claire Vaughn

My experience of Navratri was profoundly healing. Participating in daily aaratis, fire ceremonies, and discourses deepened my connection to the Mother, the Ashram, and to myself. I found the rituals to be very beautiful, especially daily aarati when everyone's voices joined together. In a way I cannot explain very well, I could feel the progression of deities (Durga, Lakshmi, and Saraswati) transforming me from deep within. I could strongly feel their presence and now have an experience inside myself from which I can relate to them. For this healing experience, I am deeply grateful.

Diwali by Angela Lierly

Diwali, the Festival of Lights, began with a fire ceremony, at which we blessed a three-foot murti of Mother Lakshmi. After the fire, we proceeded to carry Her up to our creek where She was installed overlooking our water source for the Ashram. The day



ended with a large gathering of visitors, Crestone community members, and local spiritual centers. Seated in the kirtan hall around the Divine Mother's 108 candles, about 150 people shared prayers, chants, and songs of peace and light. Finally, we feasted on a decadent spread of food and desserts in the candlelit earthship.

New Residents

Shila - I have been living in the Estonian Babaji Ashram for two years. My first visit here was very strong. I really enjoyed the family like community here and the energy of the mountains.



I am back again for an extended period of time learning to be pujari for the Divine Mother, whose love is very nourishing.



James - It has long been my quest to acquire that state of unitive consciousness which is that quality of well-being that persists even in the face of adversity. The turning point in my quest came one day when Kali lit a fire under my bed, compelling me to make the change I had long contemplated; when Durga revealed to me how I may accomplish that change; and when Haidakhandeswari visited my dreams to show me the place where I can realize my lifelong quest. So it is that I came here.

New Board Members

Cindy Cleary - I moved to Crestone in 2003 drawn by the mountains, the Spiritual Centers, and the Charter School where my husband teaches. Our two young children, Jade and Kailou,



are a big part of our involvement with the Ashram. We found a spiritual home here that embraces all of us equally. I always strive to be of service - through teaching, counseling, and serving in community - so I am honored to serve on the Ashram Board.



Danush DopieraIa - I have been living in Crestone for eleven years. I have always loved coming up to the Ashram and feel it is a beautiful extension of the Crestone community. I am grateful to serve on the Board.

New Kirtan Hall Report by Ramloti

As you can see in the Diwali photo below, the kirtan hall is being well used with 150 people in attendance. This was also the case for Fall Navratri, the Kirtan Hall Dedication, and several other celebrations. Now we wonder how we ever had celebrations without this wonderful space!

For me, one of the additional wonders of the new hall is the welcoming and loving atmosphere that it seems to emanate. Folks from many different traditions seem to feel at welcome. For Diwali alone we had Buddhist Lamas, Carmelite monks and nuns,

Sikh teachers, a Native American Elder, Subud members, Sufis, Shumei members, and representatives from four of our local Buddhist lineages. Sharing our chants and songs of peace and light was deeply moving. The love in that room was palpable and Mother was glowing. Thank you to you all.

We are very happy to announce that our loan to complete the kirtan hall is steadily being paid down. Our two initial loans totaling \$127,000 are now paid down to \$96,000 due to your support! We invite you to continue to help us pay down our loan.



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

Name: _____ Phone: _____

To receive Ashram newsletter, we need your email address _____

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 (\$108) \$ _____ Please send me a piece of Mother's Sari _____

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

Make checks payable to (HUA) Haidakhandi Universal Ashram and send to:

HUA • PO Box 9 • Crestone, CO 81131

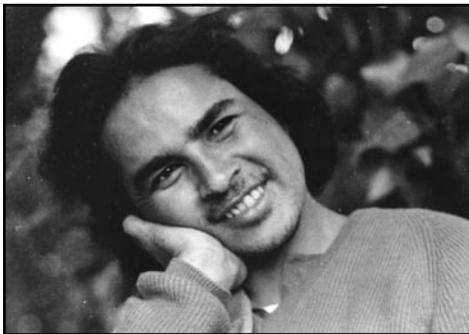
All donations are tax deductible. Thank you for your support.

Maha Lakshmi Shop Report

As you read on the front page, we have decided to not publish more catalogues for the sake of the environment. We hope that you can access our continually updated product catalogue on our website. Just click on the photo of Mother for the Maha Lakshmi Shop. If you have problems with this, please call and we will help you with an order. There are several new items in the shop, such as deity t-shirts for children and adults as well as a DVD of the kirtan hall dedication in June for \$10.08, so please check the web site. 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 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 866-686-4185.

Calendar, 2006 (Some dates are still tentative)

February 26 Maha Shivaratri, all-night chanting followed by a morning fire ceremony
Mar 29 - April 6 Spring Navratri, nine days honoring the Divine Mother
July 10 Guru Purnima, the day we honor our teacher, morning fire ceremony
July 24 - 28 Family Week and Fire Ceremony Workshop
Aug.28 - Sept. 1 Raw Food Week, work with, eat, and learn about raw foods
Sept. 23 - Oct. 1 Fall Navratri, nine days honoring the Divine Mother
October 21 Diwali, festival of lights



Haidakhandi Universal Ashram

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“Be firm like a rock, deep and serious like the sea. Think of the earth as a mother. This is one earth. Don’t be divided by thinking of yourselves as belonging to different countries. We belong to one earth. Proceed with this in mind. Look to the future with a vision of good deeds for the whole world, not just one country. Have great courage and patience and be not afraid of water, fire, or great storms - face them bravely.”

Shri Babaji, April 7, 1983.



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