

Haidakhandi Universal Ashram

October, 2006

Dear Friends of the Ashram,



This wonderful photo of Shri Babaji was taken in 1981 when my children and I were hiking out of the Ashram to visit devotees in Alamora with Baba. The image was taken by a man from Canada and sent to us recently by surprise. Just looking at it brings me back to that special moment. The river was high and so we had to cross in a hand-pulled tram that sat six people. Baba invited my two sons and I to cross with Him so we had many special minutes basking in His Divine energy. Bhole Baba Ki Jai!

Premanand and I have just returned from a wonderful tour to Denver and the Pacific Northwest. Busily in preparation for Diwali, I would like to first send you this newsletter full of pictures of Fall Navratri and the tour. I will send Diwali photos next month.

Beyond Diwali, we are looking forward to November 4 when we will have an Indian cooking class and fund-raiser for the Crestone Charter School's trip to India. Then on Saturday, November 25 we will have a kirtan concert and workshop by Vamadeva (this is Thanksgiving weekend). We are also busily ordering new shop items so that the Maha Lakshmi Shop will be full for Christmas. We appreciate your support. We have been busy chipping away at our kirtan hall loan. Read on to find out about all of this.

With the shortening of days, our evening aarati has shifted to 6pm for the remainder of the winter. Morning aarati remains at 7am. Our full-moon fire ceremony this month is on Sunday, November 5, and the new moon-fire ceremony is on Monday, November 20. The fire ceremony begins at 10:08am and is followed by a meal. If you would like to sponsor a fire ceremony (\$108) or bhandara (feast) (\$108) you may make the donation on line by just [clicking here](#) or call 719-256-4108 or e-mail the Ashram at info@BabajiAshram.org or send us a check at

P.O. Box 9, Crestone, CO 81131. Thank you for all of your support.

In truth and love, Ramloti

Indian Cooking Class and Fund-raiser Saturday, November 4



The Ashram is collaborating with and helping to lead the Crestone Charter High School students to India next Spring. They will be visiting Delhi, Agra, Amistar, Dharmasalla, and Jaipur as well as traveling to Babaji's Ashram in Haidakhan to experience life in a small village and an Ashram. This is a big trip for them and so the fund-raising is important. This event will be an evening of Indian food and Indian entertainment and will be on Saturday, November 4 from 6pm until 9pm. Most of the food will be prepared at the Ashram earlier in the day in conjunction with an Indian cooking class which will

run from 2pm until 5pm. Three Indian families have volunteered to come from Denver and teach the class and oversee the food preparation. The last fund-raiser, held in Spring served over 100 people and raised about \$1400 for the trip. Please call the Ashram at 719-256-4108 for more information or e-mail us at info@babajishram.org.

Kirtan with Vamadeva Saturday, November 25 from 7pm - 9pm

Vamadeva, who led us in a memorable and inspiring kirtan evening last May, is coming here from his new home in Florida to lead another evening of chanting and music at the Ashram. The date will be Saturday, November 25 during Thanksgiving weekend and will be from 7pm until 9pm.

It is also our good fortune that Vamadeva will lead a kirtan workshop that afternoon from 2pm until 5pm. The workshop will be a combination of learning new chants, the significance behind each one, and singing them. Vamadeva sings Sanskrit chants from the Shiva, Vishnu (Ram-Sita, Radhe-Krishna) and Divine Mother traditions - Kali, Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati. He leads kirtan and kirtan workshops around the country and is highly regarded as a deep and soulful kirtan leader.



Admission to the kirtan and the workshop is by donation, which will go to both Vamadeva's travel costs and supporting the Ashram. There is still some room available in the dorm for that weekend so if you would like to join us or for more information about the evening, call the Ashram at 719-256-4108, or e-mail us at info@babajishram.org. On Thanksgiving weekend the dorm traditionally fills up very fast, so call us soon.

Kirtan Hall Update

As I look around during all of our major celebrations and three-day weekends, I wonder how we were able to accommodate all the people that came here before the kirtan hall was built. The last day of Fall Navratri we had a hundred or more people inside listening to the final discourse on the Devi Bhagavatam as shown in the photo. We are so grateful to Mother and Babaji for allowing this expansion to take place.

We are continuing to pay down our loan and were able, because of all of your generosity and support of the Maha Lakshmi Shop, to pay an extra \$5,000 this month. We estimate a balance on the two loans combined to be \$66,500.

Thank you for all of your support.
You can donate on line by [clicking here](#).



ARDH KUMBH MELA 2007 AT PRAYAG(ALLAHABAD)

The ARDH (HALF) KUMBH MELA will be held at Allahabad in January/February 2007. It is a spectacular event and probably the largest spiritual congregation in the world.

The main dates for the KUMBH MELA are :

JANUARY 03, 2007---PAUSH POORNIMA

JANUARY 14, 2007---MAKAR SANKRANTI

JANUARY 19, 2007---MAUNI AMAVASYA

JANUARY 23, 2007---BASANT PANCHAMI

FEBRUARY 02, 2007---MAGHI POORNIMA

Our Samaj, as usual, will put up a camp at the Mela site on the sands of the river Ganga for its members and devotees of SHRI BABAJI. The Samaj Camp provides basic facilities including a Kirtan Hall, Havan Kund, Tented Accommodation, Dining Arrangement and Toilet facilities. Devotees are expected to bring their own bedding facilities/ sleeping bags. Our camp will be functional from January 03 to January 23, 2007. At this point, Shri Muniraji plans to attend from January 11 until January 23.

Please plan early and communicate your plans to the undersigned so that we can plan for you better.

FOR DETAILS CONTACT :

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Devotees Stories

Annelou Perrenoud, the secretary of the Ashram Board of Directors, has undertaken a wonderful project to collect devotees stories from around the world of how they came to Shri Babaji. This is equally applicable to those that met Babaji in physical form or have experienced Him and His guidance through dreams, visions, or other ways. She would like you to e-mail her your stories at annelou22@ctelco.net. She is also willing to interview you (in person or over the phone (719-256-5051)). If you have written your experience already and it is not on the computer, you may mail her a hard copy at P.O. Box 68, Crestone, CO 81131. Eventually she hopes that they will be published in a book. In the meantime, we will be putting them up on our web site under [Devotees' Stories](#).

Memories of a Magnificent Fall Navratri

Fall Navratri was beautiful, deep, well-attended, and very memorable. Here are photos of the Divine Mother from the nine days of Navratri. Each of Her saris were gifted by devotees over the last few months and all were made especially for this occasion.

Navratri Mother







Navratri Children

More and more children are coming to the Ashram and participating in the ceremonies. The last day saw at least 35 children and all received gifts of crowns, veils or lunghis, small gifts, candy, and money. Families value this time of community and a place where their children can learn about respect for spiritual traditions and for people of different cultures. The Ashram appreciates our children and family so much.





Navratri Fire Ceremony and Pujas

The whole Fall Navratri seemed especially blessed this year. The weather was warm and sunny, the chanting and ceremonies were very heart-full and harmonious, many people contributed their time and energy, and the last day sitting with 150 or more people at the fire ceremony was particularly powerful. How blessed we are to have been given these rituals and ceremonies by Shri Babaji to bring here to the West. When we gather together at these times, the effect upon the environment and the whole cosmos feels very strong. Bhole Baba Ki Jai!



Northwest Tour



The Northwest tour sponsored by the Ashram and the American Haidakhan Samaj ([click here to find out more about the Samaj](#)) was great. It began with a kirtan evening in Denver hosted by Arvind Suman and several other families. Even though it was in the middle of the week, we had about 50 people in attendance. It was so nice to see many of the families in their own neighborhood who normally travel the four hours to the Ashram.

We then traveled to Eugene, Oregon where Charles, Miyuki, and Peggy organized a lovely fire ceremony and kirtan evening. Some folks drove eight hours to attend the event! Sitting around the havan kund with about 50 people, we were just about ready to begin when a huge flock of geese flew directly over us calling out loudly. It seemed like an excellent beginning to a strong ceremony.



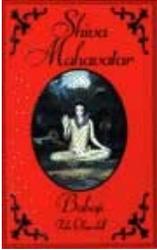
Our final stop was in Monroe, WA at the home of Don and Kay. Here, on several acres of beautifully wooded land, they have a temple and a large havan kund which were built in 1985 and 1986 when Shri Muniraji and Shri Shastriji visited their center. Although the numbers were smaller at this event, the majority of attendees have been coming for years and many met Shri Babaji in His physical form. So the aaratis, havans, and satsang were especially strong.



Calendar for 2006 - 2007

- November 4 - Indian Cooking Class from 2m - 5pm. Indian Dinner and Entertainment Fund-raiser for the Charter School 6pm -9pm
- November 25 - Kirtan workshop with Vamadeva from Boulder, 2-5pm and kirtan, 7-9pm.
- February 16 - Shivaratri, all-night chanting
- February 17 - Shivaratri fire ceremony at 10:08am followed by bhandara
- March 18 - March 26 - Spring Navratri, nine days honoring the Divine Mother
- July 23 - July 27 - Annual Family Week and Kirtan Workshop
- July 28 - Annual American Haidakhan Samaj Meeting ([click here to learn more about the Samaj](#))
- July 29 - Guru Purnima
- October 10 - 18 - Fall Navratri, nine days honoring the Divine Mother

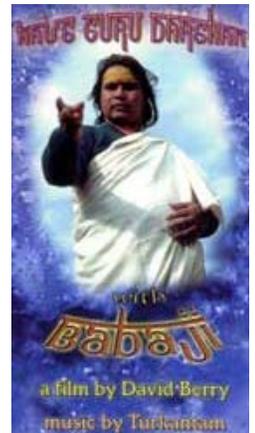
Maha Lakshmi Shop Report



The Maha Lakshmi Shop continues to receive new items. Many new purses, bags, hand-painted om and Ganesh pendants, and deity T-shirts in both children and adult sizes have just arrived. You can view them all on our web site at BabajiAshram.org.

We recently got the book, Shiva Mahavatar by Pola Churchill back in stock. This new edition has many photos and great stories and sells for \$15.

We would also like to announce a large sale on the video, Have Guru Darshan, by David Berry with music by Turkantam. This 57 minute video has been heralded over the years as one of the best videos about Shri Babaji with footage of Him and the Ashram in Haidkahan from the years 1977 - 1981. The blurb on the video cover reads, "A unique, mesmerizing and rare living portrait providing glimpses of Hadiakhan Baba. Visit His Ashram at the foot of the Himalayas and experience Babaji luminous darshan." This revised edition from 2001 is definitely worth having in every home. To make this more possible, we are offering the video for only \$10.08 plus shipping. It is available in both formats, PAL (for Europe) and NTSC (USA and Canada).



You can call the shop toll-free at 1-866-686-4185 daily from 9am until 5pm. We do take Mastercard, Discover, and Visa. We thank you for all of your shop purchases as the revenue from the shop is a huge support for the Ashram. To view all the items in the Maha Lakshmi Shop, please refer to our newly updated web site at BabajiAshram.org. You may [order on line](#) through paypal or e-mail us at shop@babajiashram.org, or of course, place the order over the phone.