

# Haidakhandi Universal Ashram Newsletter

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[www.babajiashram.org](http://www.babajiashram.org)

## September, 2014

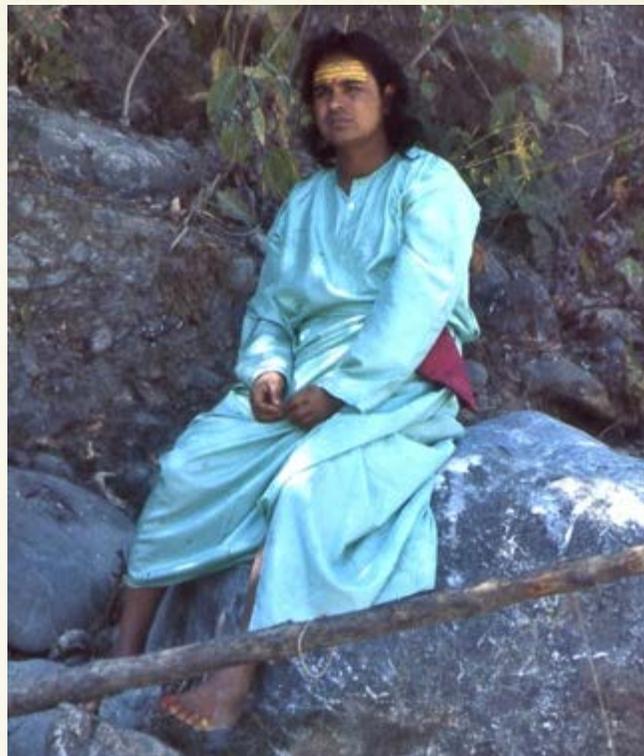
Dear Friends,

This month has been a very busy month with Premanand gone for a vacation to the East coast and our normal large flow of summer visitors. It has actually been so busy that I have not even taken the usual amount of photos I normally do, so if you visited and do not see your photo, please forgive me. It has all worked out fine however with Baba and Mother sending the helpers we needed just at the right time, once, it was actually just in the nick of time. Let me narrate this story because it is so dear to me and shows just what this Ashram has been to people.

I scheduled an Ashram Board meeting on Sunday, August 24 before I knew that Premanand would be out of town and so would Jessica and that Shashi and Bipin would not be able to attend. (Shashi is on our Board and Bipin is amazing running the Shop and the kitchen). Nor were Sabina and Ajay able to come from Denver. (Once again, Ajay is on the Board and Sabina is a superwoman in the kitchen and offering the food to Ma.) So here we are. I am thinking to have the meeting in the kitchen instead of the dorm so that I can be available to run the Shop and oversee the meal preparation. This would not make for a great Board meeting but it would work.

Well the night before Hany and John show up from Florida for three nights. In the morning, I ask Hany if she knows how to run a shop. She says no but is willing to learn. So I show her quickly. After this I get vegetables out for steaming and salad. (I did have rice, dahl, and dessert already made.) The chair of our Board, Paul, shows up with his two daughters, Sage age 7 and Aesha age 3. They often come with him to help in the kitchen while he is at the Board meeting. So we left with them all chopping.

The meeting went great and I hurried back down to the kitchen to offer the food to Mother and Baba in the temple before lunch. As I arrived in the kitchen, there was Sage washing the temple dishes! I was shocked! She had shown Hany how to dish up food for the temple, what dishes to use, how to offer it to Mother and Baba, how to distribute the food back in the pots, and how to



wash and dry the dishes and put them away in the special shelf! Sage is seven years old!

I was so touched to see that the children who come to this Ashram are so connected to the rituals and ceremonies and know the meaning of it all as well. Our visitors were also touched by the sincerity and love of the children. A little later I gave the girls a new outfit for the large Maha Lakshmi in the Shop and they dressed Her in it. Here is the photo of them with Hany and the beautifully adorned Maha Lakshmi! I love this Ashram!



With deep love,

Ramloti

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## Ceremonies and Schedule

The full-moon fire ceremony this month is on Monday, September 8 and the new-moon fire ceremony is on Wednesday, September 24. The fire ceremonies begin at 10am and are followed by a meal. At the new-moon fire ceremony we will honor our ancestors and it will be performed at the small havan kund. The next day, Thursday, September 25, we will begin our nine day Divine Mother Festival, Navratri. There will be daily fire ceremonies at 10am for those nine days. Read below for more of the schedule. 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](mailto: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.



## 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 (8am), readings (8:30am), discourses (11am), fire ceremonies (10am), aarati (7am and 6pm), paduka pujas (6:15am), and chanting.

We will be honoring children under 10 years old on Sunday, September 28 after the fire ceremony. Please let us know if you are bringing your children.

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 room most 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. If you are not able to make it in person, join us in spirit from wherever you are. You may also sponsor a fire ceremony or bhandara (feast) long distance. Call us at 719-256-4108 or email us at [info@babajiashram.org](mailto:info@babajiashram.org). Haidakhandeswari Mata Ki Jai!

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## Diwali - Festival of Lights

This year the magical festival of lights, Diwali, falls 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@babajiashram.org](mailto:info@babajiashram.org) with questions or to make a reservation.



## *Haidakhandi Universal Ashram Presents on Nov. 8 & 9: A Two-Day Extravaganza Fundraiser at the Movie Manor*

*2830 US Highway W, Monte Vista, CO 81144 (A 4 hour drive from Denver and 1 hour from the Ashram!)*



*Experience a unique event with your friends, family, & over 100 other devotees. Movie Manor is a lovely hotel where you will view traditional Indian films right from your room on a large drive-in movie screen! The sound for the film is piped right into your room. Imagine two days of chanting in a temple room with Babaji's murti & padukas, fire ceremony, sumptuous meals, satsang, & relaxing with your family & friends in one of these beautiful rooms while you enjoy this one-of-a-kind event! (Playground, putting greens, & ball field too.)*

*Call 719-256-4108 to reserve your room now before they are all booked!*

*\$151 suggested donation per room. All proceeds benefit the Ashram.*

*SATURDAY NOV 8TH - 2-5pm - Opening Reception and Check In (Chai and snacks served.)*

*5-6:30pm - Watch a traditional Indian film with your family and friends from the comfort of your room!*

*6:30-8pm - Aarati & Kirtan in the Temple area (w/ Babaji Murti & Padukas) & Bhole Baba Bhajan Band*

*8-9pm - Sit-down Indian Feast*

*9:30-11:00pm - Watch a traditional Indian film with your family and friends from the comfort of your room!*

*SUNDAY NOV 9TH - 8am - Aarati, Chanting & a Fire Ceremony (weather permitting)*

*9:30-11 Breakfast and Departure*

*For information about the Ashram: [www.BabajiAshram.org](http://www.BabajiAshram.org)*

Here is the flyer for our amazing fundraiser on Saturday November 8 and Sunday, November 9. It sounds as if lots of families are planning to attend so it should be an amazingly shakti-filled time together. There are different choices of rooms available: one king size bed; two queen size beds; or one queen bed. (There are also a few pet friendly rooms, but you will not be able to view the movie screen from those rooms.) So make your reservations early so you can get the room you like. Please download the flyer to print and share it with all your friends to support the Ashram, click here: <http://www.babajiashram.org/media/MovieManor.pdf>

Mark your calendars for that weekend to have wonderful time and to help support Mother and Baba's home in Crestone. Call 719-256-4108 or email at [info@babajashram.org](mailto:info@babajashram.org)

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## New International Haidakhandi Journal Published

The latest edition of the International Haidakhandi Journal was just published on line. Below is the link to what we contributed and it will also bring you to the rest of the news from around the world of Haidakhandis. There is a place to subscribe if you would like to receive this on a regular (quarterly) basis.

<http://www.internationalhaidakhandijournal.com/internationalhaidakhandijournal/USA.html>

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## Karma Yoga at the Ashram

We have been busy with lots of maintenance of the Ashram this last month. Everything is growing fast with the copious rain and sunshine, it is a beautiful year. With lots of visitors there is always lots of cooking, cleaning, and dishwashing. With Navratri around the corner we are sewing new saris for Ma, new clothes for Baba's murti, and all the veils for the kumaris that will be honored during the festival. Storing up fire wood for the nine big fire ceremonies is also an important detail and Jonathan is on that duty. Dharmananda is coming toward completion of the new tops for the measuring weirs on the water system and has also fixed the leaking sun tubes on the kirtan hall.

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.







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## Recent Events

### Remembering Our Dear Friends

Two good friends of the Ashram passed away this last month. Jim Terusa and Toby Clark were both long time supporters of the Ashram.

Jim Terusa lived in Jupiter, Florida with his wife Sari and their lovely daughter, Ayla. He and his wife, both psychologists, ran the Transformational Studies Institute there. We first met Jim and Sari many years ago when they brought groups to Crestone to experience the beauty and multi-faith atmosphere of

this place. They also would host us each year in January at their center for a chanting evening as well as feed us and take care of us so well when we there.

Jim had been having health challenges for several years and he had valiantly overcome them all until this last one, brain cancer, which took his life this last month. We will miss our dear and sweet friend and loyal supporter of the Ashram. To say he was a remarkable and inspirational man falls short of his grandeur. Our love and prayers go out to Sari and Ayla as Jim was an exceptional husband and father.



Toby Clark passed away in his home in Santa Fe with his wife, Kathleen at his side. Toby was a long-time devotee of Shri Babaji and went several times to be with Him in Haidakhan, India in the early 80's. He was married in Haidakhan to Kathleen in 1981, as seen in the photo. Toby helped found the American Haidakhan Samaj and was the first president of it. He and Ramloti created the first full color calendar of Haidakhan Babaji in 1983. He has continued over the years to support both the Samaj and the Ashram generously. We will deeply miss his stories of being with Shri Babaji, his quick and outrageous sense of humor, his depth of intuitive insight, and his generosity. We will keep him and Kathleen in our prayers. Bhole Baba Ki Jai!



## Janmashtami - Lord Krishna's Birthday - August 17

The birthday of Lord Krishna was celebrated at the Ashram this year on Sunday, August 17. We had a lovely fire ceremony with lovely mantras by Nirmal Sharma from California. This was followed by pujas to Lord Krishna, stories, chanting, and dancing. We had folks join us from the Denver area, St. Louis, Kansas City, Ft. Collins, California, and of course Crestone. It was a gala and inspiring day. Here are a couple of articles from two who attended.

From Nirmal Sharma of Fremont, CA,

“Thanks so much for the hospitality, hard work, your love and inspiration during our three day trip to the Ashram starting on Krishna's birthday. HUA has become the American residence for the Mother as well as Babaji. We call it American Haidakhan. I grew up ta king care of a Radha Krishna family temple that is also open to public for darshan right across the street from the Kashi Vishwanth temple in Varanasi. I had to give Krishna a bath, change His clothes, do Shringar with mala chandan and feed Him every morning before going to school. My favorite time of the year is Krishna birthday celebration which falls on the 8th day of the lunar month of Bhadrapad that is right after Shravan month. This was the 5241st birthday of Krishna. I love telling stories about Krishna's birthday and His childhood leelas. He killed Putana the demoness when He was 15 months old and lifted the mountain Gobardhan on his pinky when he was only 15-years old.

Mahendra Maharaja says that Babaji and Krishna are one and same since Babaji appeared to him as Krishna on his request. When Mahendra Maharaj was in Vrindavan he forgot his request and Krishna appeared to him in broad day light at the bank of Yamuna River playing the flute.

Another favorite story of mine is the one in which the pujari at the Vrindavan Krishna temple forgot to put some ladoo (round Indian sweet) by Krishna's bed for midnight snack. That night Krishna appeared as a little boy to the ladoo maker for the temple at 2am and asked for some ladoo. When the ladoo maker asked Him to pay for the ladoos the little boy said he did not have any money but he was wearing two gold bracelets which He gave to the ladoo maker in exchange for the sweets. The next morning the bracelets were missing from the temple in Vrindavan. When the news spread in town the ladoo maker realized it was Krishna and offered the bracelets to the temple and told them what happened the night before.



"Krishna's birthday was celebrated with so much joy and love at the Ashram in Crestone that it reminded me of my childhood. My wife, Indira, also liked it much better than the Janmastami at the Fremont temple in California. Not only did we do puja to the baby Krishna Gopal but also to large deities of Radha and Krishna. The singing of Gopala and Radhe Govinda got every one up and dancing.



"On Monday we also did a Rudrabhishek to the Shiva Linga in the temple that came from Pashu Patinath Temple in Katmandu. We also performed the Rudrabhishek to Shri Munindra Maharaja, the new murti of Old Haidakhan Babaji at the Ashram. Rudram is derived from "Ru" which means to sound, "Rud" to shed tears as caused by obstacles in One's life. Rudram is interpreted as one who removes all sins and melts in compassion; one who leads us to self knowledge, one who removes all miseries caused by the delusions of conditioned existence leading us to liberation. In Yajur Veda, Sri Rudram is considered as the most important part. In the heart of Sri Rudram is the powerful mantra known as "panchakshari" - five syllabled - the core essence describing the eternal truth in godhead: Namaha Shivaya. Tramyambakm as well as Namaha Shambhavaya cha are also part of Sri Rudram.



“It is also said that all the gods are pleased when one recites Sri Rudram. Abhishek (pouring water and panchamrit over the lingam and Baba) done while chanting Rudram in the summer months of shraavan is extremely pleasing to Lord Shiva. After the Abhishek with panchamrit and puja, and aarti to the Murti of old Haidakhan Baba, Sri Munindra Maharaj looked extremely happy. We were very grateful to be able to perform Rudrabhishek to Sri Munindra Maharaj at HUA on Monday.

“In addition to the two ceremonies the singing, aarati, the havan and paduka puja at Babaji's kutir is priceless. We really applaud the efforts of the Ashram residents to keep the Babaji tradition going which destroys the poison accumulated by living in the Kaliyuga and fills you with the divine nectar. This is a contemporary miracle - a gift of Bhole Baba to His American devotees.”

Bhole Baba Ki jai,  
 Haidakhandeshwari Mata ki jai,  
 Haidakhan Universal Ashram Dham ki jai  
 Vrindavan Bihari lal ki jai  
 Pashupati Nath Maharaj ki jai  
 Sri Sri Munindra Maharaj ki jai



From Mohan in Ft. Collins, CO.

“As always, my trip to Haidakhan Universal Ashram (HUA) during Aug 16 to Aug 19 was a blissful one. On Aug 16, I arrived in the Ashram with Nirmal and Indira Sharma just in time for evening aarati. Before leaving Fort Collins, I asked Ramloti if I could come in the car thinking I need not use the van for sleeping and save on gas. Ramloti said yes thinking there is nothing to haul in the van. Babaji made sure that nothing big needs to be hauled and I slept in the dormitory even though it was totally booked. Sunday morning being Janmastami, the Ashram was full of visitors. Ramloti taught me how to make flower malas and Barbara helped me to make them.

“On Sunday morning we had puja at Babaji's kutir, followed by aarti at 7:00 AM, followed by fire ceremony and Janmastami celebrations. Decorating Krishnas of various sizes and devotional singing and dancing was wonderful. As usual the fresh food prepared by Jessica, Indira and others was great. In the afternoon, after some karma yoga, Nirmal, Indira and I went to Shakti Sharanam for restorative yoga classes conducted by Annie. It was wonderful. Learned a couple of things that will help my back. We came back for the evening aarati. After the aarati I could go the grocery shop in the city just before closing to get some limes for the car puja next day and also sneak in at the fag end of the kirtans conducted by Vamadeva. It was a busy and blissful day. Krishna was with us all through and He knows how to make us to feel as though it is our birthday.

“Car puja by Nirmal Sharma to Jessica's new VW Passat and my new Honda Civic was an wonderful addition on Monday. Weeding, washing, cooking, rearranging incense sticks, grocery shopping, post office visit, etc. added variety and lightness to my karma yoga on Monday. It too flid away fast.



“Tuesday was the final day. It was hard to leave. After the puja, fire ceremony, and breakfast we left Crestone by 10:30AM. The traffic was light, our tummy was full, so Nirmal and Indira got dropped off within 4 hours to the airport. One more unforgettable trip to the spiritual capital of America.”



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## Ganesh's Birthday

It seems like August is a month of birthdays for the Gods. You just read about our celebration for Lord Krishna and a few weeks later, it was Ganesh's birthday. It was a splendid day with lovely sun but not too hot for the fire ceremony. We proceeded from there into the temple and did puja to about 40 Ganesh murtis ranging from 1 inch to 18 inches tall. It was a lovely time together. This was accompanied by chanting and followed by a delicious Indian meal. Jai Ganesh Ki Jai!



**Lots of Visitors to the Ashram**

It is the end of summer and so many new and old friends are coming through the Ashram wanting to have Baba's and Mother's darshan before the snow flies. Labor Day weekend was wonderfully busy as it is the last three-day weekend of the summer. I was mostly too busy to take photos but here are a few of our visitors from this month.

Here is a short note from Hany and John from Florida (pictured on the left of the photo).

"Namaste, just want to let you know that we are very grateful for the time we spent together and the new family we made, also that we made it home safe and sound, please give our love to everyone." Love Hany and John



Here is something written by Paul from Austin who ended up staying at the Ashram for 10 days.



"I came to HUA backwards, as I often do, having first visited Haidakhan Vishwa Mahadam and the Ashram in Chilanaula near Rhanikhet in India a year ago. I arrived in Crestone thinking the purpose of my trip was to visit a friend I had made a month and a half earlier at a 3-day retreat in Santa Fe with Ammachi. Through a series of misconnections and miscommunications, I ended up seeking shelter at HUA. Meanwhile, I was booked as a volunteer at Crestone's biggest party, the annual music festival. I did my 4-hour shift and enjoyed some of the characters while the weather turned cold, wet and windy. I was given the choice of either attending the festival or attending the Ashram and I chose the Ashram. Good choice.

"My morning karma yoga included pulling those stubborn rabbit bush weeds, which apparently burn like Roman Candles. Being a lowlander living near Austin, Texas, I found my stamina tested with each wheelbarrow full. Still, I

felt it was a great privilege to work for Babaji at his gorgeous American Ashram. My laziness and lethargy got challenged and I liked it. I found my mind quieting from its normal stream of unconsciousness. Try sitting in meditation for 5 minutes and see if you still think quieting the mind is no big deal. It was for me and the weeds, the sun and the wind, the earth and the insects, and the stillness and silence helped me become quiet inside. I felt Babaji's presence and felt He approved of my efforts at karma yoga.

"So now I'm on my last day here, after a magnificent fire ceremony on Sunday (the full moon) and lovely bhajans afterwards, followed by a veritable feast for lunch. For me that was the crescendo of my whole experience here in the silence and the beauty. I now realize after 10 days at the Ashram, that this whole visit was Babaji's lila. I thought I was visiting a woman but in reality, I was meant to commune with Babaji and his devoted karma yogis, Ramloti, Premanand, Dharmananda, and Jonathan. Bhole Baba Ki Jai!"

Here are some photos of our other visitors. We so appreciate all the devotion you bring here.









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## 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.

## Calendar for Events at the Ashram in 2015

February 17, 2015 - Shivaratri - All-night chanting followed by a fire ceremony at 10am on March 1.

March 21 - 29, 2015 - Spring Navratri - Divine Mother Festival with daily fire ceremonies, pujas, discourses, reading, chanting and other ceremonies.

July 18 & 19, 2015 - Annual American Haidakhan Samaj Weekend and Meeting. Their new web address is [www.babajisamaj.us](http://www.babajisamaj.us)

July 22 - 25, 2015 - Annual Family Week w/ concurrent Sofia Diaz Workshop.

July 31, 2015 - Guru Purnima Day with fire ceremony at 10am followed by a meal.

October 13 - 21, 2015 - Fall Navratri - Divine Mother Festival with daily fire ceremonies, pujas, discourses, reading, chanting and other ceremonies.

November 11, 2015 - Diwali, Festival of Lights.

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## Maha Lakshmi Shop Report

We have just received a new collection of Divine Yantras in two different sizes and a new line of incense in many aromas. Here are the links to find them on our Shop site.

<http://mahalakshnishop.wazala.com/products/yantra/>



<http://mahalakshnishop.wazala.com/products/om-nagchampa-new-scents/>



We have redone the Maha Lakshmi Shop website making it more easy for you to navigate. Please take a look at [www.mahalakshnishop.wazala.com](http://www.mahalakshnishop.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!

