

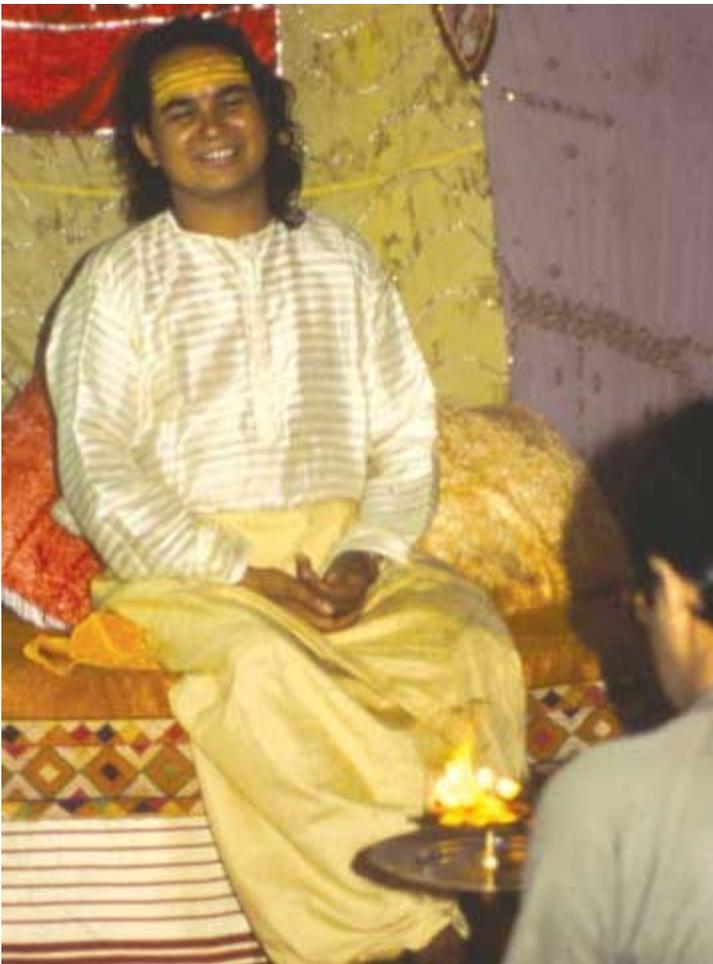
# Haidakhandi Universal Ashram

## Ashram Mission Statement

We aspire to live the Teachings of Haidakhan Baba, to share the Love of Babaji and the Divine Mother with others, to hold this Ashram as Their Home, to serve humanity, and to be stewards and caretakers of the land.

## November, 2007

### Dear Friends of the Ashram,



This Friday, November 9 will be the magical festival of Diwali, the celebration of light over darkness. How often we are reminded of this light in our daily practice at the Ashram. As we offer the fire of the aarati lamp each morning and evening in the temple asking to burn away the veil of illusion that keeps us from perceiving the Divine Light that is in each one of us and all around us. We wave the aarati lamp to our Guru, Shri Babaji, (as seen in this photo from Almora, UP taken in August of 1982), we are reminded that the word guru itself means that which takes you from darkness to light. Here at the Ashram, we also live in so much light. The night sky is full of millions of stars, planets, and other celestial bodies of light. The thousands of visitors that come here yearly are seeking that light. The many children that attend our various ceremonies have that celestial light still shining through their little eyes. We are very fortunate to be on this planet at this time of unfolding of more and more light. The Festival of Lights, Diwali, is a very poignant and joyful remembrance of the power and

beauty of light.

We had a tremendously harmonious Fall Navratri last month. Many photos from the nine days follow in the article below. There were so many children at all of the activities that the Board of Directors has decided to make a special children's program once a month. The first one will be on Saturday morning, November 17 followed by a potluck lunch. Read on for more details.

Our evening aarati has shifted to 6pm and will remain so through the winter months. Morning

aarati will continue to be at 7am. Our next fire ceremony is on Diwali (the new-moon), Friday, November 9. The full-moon fire ceremony is on Thanksgiving weekend, Saturday, November 24. The fire ceremonies begin at 10:08am and are followed by a meal. In order for more people to be involved long-distance in the fire ceremonies, we have expanded our sponsorship range. We will also take a mala or bracelet to the fire with Shri Babaji's padukas to send to you so that you can wear the blessings from the fire. The categories are:

**\$27 sponsorship - copper, brass, nickel Om Namah Shivaya bracelet**

**\$54 sponsorship - Sandalwood Mala**

**\$108 sponsorship - Rudraksha or Crystal-Rudraksha Mala**

You can make the donation on line by just [clicking here](#) or call 719-256-4108 or e-mail the Ashram at [info@BabajiAshram.org](mailto:info@BabajiAshram.org) or send us a check at P.O. Box 9, Crestone, CO 81131. We are continually grateful for all of your support.

In truth and love, Ramloti

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## Diwali, Festival of Lights - Friday, November 9

Each year we celebrate the wondrous Festival of Lights, Diwali along with millions of others all over the world, particularly those in India. It symbolizes the victory of light over darkness and for many parts of India, heralds in the New Year. Since experiencing Divine Light is something that the spiritual groups in Crestone are all seeking, it has always seemed to be the fitting festival to invite them all to attend and participate. In the past we have had the Catholic Carmelites, the Zen Buddhists, the Shumeis, the Tibetans Buddhists, Native American Indians, the Sikhs, the devotees of Sai Ma, the Subuds, the Sufis, and many other groups share their songs and chants of peace and light. There are usually well over a hundred. people.

The temple, earthship, and Ashram grounds are aglow in candles and lights. After we share this powerful time of raising our voices in prayer and song together in the temple, we all enjoy supper and delicious desserts together in the earthship. It is such a treasured time to be together and realize that although our paths may be different, that we all have so much in common. As Shri Babaji said very clearly, "All religions lead to God."



If you are able to join us, please do. We begin with the new-moon fire ceremony at 10:08am followed by lunch. The rest of the day is spent preparing for the evening celebration which begins with aarati at 6pm and chanting songs of peace and light at 7pm. There is still room in the dormitory if you are coming from out of town. E mail us at [info@BabajiAshram.org](mailto:info@BabajiAshram.org) or call at 719-256-4108.

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## Children's Program - Bal Gokulam



## on Saturday, November 17

The Ashram invites babies to teens to join us for a program of stories, singing and exploring their connection to the Divine on Saturday, November 17 from 10am until 12 noon. This will be followed by a potluck lunch. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

The children in our community are such a light and joy. They are always welcome at the Ashram - but this will be a special time to focus on them and something that we would like to continue on a monthly basis. All Ideas and feedback are welcome. For more information or questions, contact Shila at 719-256-4108 Thursday or Friday between 9 am and 2 pm or Cindy at 719-256-5007.

## Inviting Maha Lakshmi Into Your Home

### Fund Raising Pledge

In many Indian homes the door is left open on Diwali night so that Maha Lakshmi may enter the home. What better time to pledge to help bring more Lakshmi to the Ashram than at Diwali. One devotee has offered to match the first \$1008 in monthly pledges made at Diwali time. Here is how it works: if you either call the Ashram at 719-256-4108 with your credit card number and ask us to charge a set amount every month (\$108, \$54, \$27, \$10.08....) or go to our website and ask PayPal to deduct a certain amount from your account each month, [Click Here](#), your donated money will be doubled. A small amount can go a very long way in helping the Ashram. Maha Lakshmi Mata Ki Jai!



## Kirtan Hall Update



Another Navratri of being so grateful for the space to chant together, listen to discourses together, and to honor the children in the new kirtan hall. Thank you to all that have made it possible.

We are pleased to let you know that through your generosity and all of your shop purchases, we have paid down our kirtan hall loan to \$49,365.

We continue to look for other ways to help pay this loan off more quickly, if you have any ideas, please call the Ashram at 719-256-4108. We recently were given the idea of a chai cook off and sweet bake off at the Ashram. We probably will have details in next month's newsletter. We want to thank you for all of your continued support in this meaningful project. If you are able to contribute to help us pay the loan off, you can send a check

to the Ashram at P.O. Box 9, Crestone, CO 81131 or donate online by [clicking here](#).

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## Upcoming Eastern Tour



Frances Frischkorn, a student at Colorado College, professional singer, and frequent karma yogi at the Ashram is teaming up with Ramloti and other musicians to do a high-energy tour of kirtan, dancing, and Babaji slides called *Alive with the Divine* to the East in February and early March of next year. The dates and places are not firm yet, but we thought we would see what the response would be of interested people in these areas. Call us at 719-256-4108 if you would like to host an event.

Here is an initial idea of an itinerary:

Feb. 14 Columbia, MO  
Feb. 15 - St. Louis, MO  
Feb. 16 - Tennessee  
February 17-18 - Atlanta, GA  
Feb. 19 - Gainesville, FL  
Feb. 20 - St. Petersburg, FL  
Feb. 21-23 - East Florida Coast  
Feb. 25 - Virginia  
Feb. 26 - Washington DC  
Feb. 27 - New Jersey  
Feb. 28 - New York  
Feb. 29 - Shrewsbury, MA  
March 1 - Ohio  
March 2 - Chicago area, IL  
March 3 - Fairfield, Iowa  
March 4 - Nebraska

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## Recent Events

### Fall Navratri

Mother in all Her regality reined over this magnificent Fall Navratri in full beneficence. It is hard to recall a more harmonious, joyful, and loving time together. As you see the photos of Mother below in Her nine new saris brought to Her by loving devotees, you should be able to glimpse a small bit of the wonder of those days that are set aside completely to honor and praise the Divine Feminine Form of God, our Mother.







The daily fire ceremonies were all blessed with warm and spring-like weather. At the first fire ceremony, Chalindra Sai Ma blessed us with her presence.



The other photo is from day three when we had two birthdays: Ram, who is offering the khir; and Shriraj, who is seated next to his father is offering the ghee.



So many little children attended the fire ceremonies and other activities each day. They learn to be respectful participants at this very early age, like Rasalis at the fire and little Sage and Sequoia in the temple during the discourse.



pujas.

Each day we had a special puja to the particular aspect of the Mother being honored. Our children particularly love to participate and are learning to be very vigilant in the



Navratri is a time to remember our children that carry the Divine Light so



innocently in their lives. We honored about 40 children during the festival. The majority on the last day.



Finally there are the many karma yogis that make every thing happen. On the last day, our good friends Shanti and Phil came from Boulder to prepare the delicious Indian feast with lots of other helpers, including Megma from Denver.



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## Maha Lakshmi Puja at the Creek



Up at the top of our property stands a beautiful statue of Maha Lakshmi blessing our land and over looking the intake for our water system on Spanish Creek.

On the last day of Navratri, several of us processed up to the creek to give Maha Lakshmi a bath in the creek and dress Her in fresh clothes and adornments.

It is a near daily treat for some of us at the Ashram to hike up to Her and give Her our pranams.



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## Chanting Evenings in Texas

Thank you to  
Romesh and Pushp  
Jindal for setting  
up a very full



evening of chanting in Dallas, Texas. Also thank you to Sandra Kachmarik, Tina and Hadi Maniar,



and Jason Almendarez in Houston, Texas for a beautiful night of aarati and chanting.

All of these evenings together are a wonderful way to spread Shri Babaji's and the Divine Mother's love and energy. If you would like to host an evening in your area, call the Ashram at 719-256-4108.

A devotee who recently moved away from Crestone to help her aging, ill mother wrote to us about the importance of these gatherings. She says: "I was spoiled living so close to the ashram. Even when I wasn't in aarati I could still visit the beautiful temple that emanates Mother's and Babaji's love. Now I understand why you take trips around the country and do chanting. It is really important for those devotees who are isolated or not able to visit the Ashram to experience Baba's energy like that. Thank you to you all."

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## Dr. Arvind Lal Visits Ashram



It was a pleasant surprise to have Dr. Arvind Lal from Delhi, India come for a visit to the Ashram. Arvind is a long-time devotee of Shri Babaji and has visited the Ashram over the years at times of large celebrations such as our kirtan hall dedication. It was nice to have him here for a few days under quieter circumstances when we could hear some of his stories of being with Babaji since the early seventies. He also sat in on one of our Board of Directors' meetings and gave us some updates and insights on how the Indian Samaj was doing.

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## Meet Our Board Member

We have had a nice response to our last two articles about new Board members. We decided that it would be nice to also highlight our longer-time Board members. We will begin this month with the Chairperson of the Board, Deborah Michalak.

**I live in the town of Crestone with my two daughters, Katherine, who is 22, and Elizabeth who is 19. My daughters actually first brought me up to**

the Temple and Ashram 13 years ago. They had been coming up for aarati with their friends' family and were invited to come for the Children's celebration at the end of Navratri and I came with them.

Right from the start I could feel the music and energy in my heart and body in a very strong way, so I began coming to aarati on a regular basis ever since. I felt the Divine Mother really softened me and took a way a lot of pain.

When I was asked to sit on the Board, I said yes immediately, which I would normally not do since I do not usually care for meetings and such. But I really support what is going on here at the Ashram and I had heard that the meetings were very harmonious and that the members would attempt to listen to their higher connection to the Divine to make decisions. I also feel that this is a very intentional community that has values and aspirations in honoring the land, environment, and all people much like I do in my own home.



## Families Who Come to the Ashram



Jen and Danush have had their baby! It was a big baby boy, named Guthrie Arrow Dopierala born September 29 and weighing 8 pounds 9 ounces. They all attended some of the ceremonies of Navratri. The baby's first night out was actually to the temple for aarati. Much love to them all.

Angela, Jason, Tallus, and Matias are doing well. It is amazing how fast these little children grow.



Our long-time friends, Bhavani and Tiru have had a second baby girl. They brought her to the temple on the last day of Navratri to have her first bite of rice after it was offered to Mother.





Nina and her twins, Willow and Asher, are frequent participants at the fire ceremonies. It takes a lot of planning to get to the Ashram by ten in the morning with two under 2-year-olds!

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## Calendar for 2007 -2008

**November 9** - Diwali, Festival of Lights. Fire ceremony at 10am. Chanting in candle-lit temple at 7pm followed by a light meal.

**February 14, 2008** - Shri Babaji's Mahasamadhi. Paduka Puja followed by aarati.

**March 6, 2008** - Maha Shivaratri with all-night chanting and fire ceremony March 7 at 10am.

**April 5 - April 13, 2008** - Spring Navratri, nine days to honor the Mother. Daily fire ceremonies, pujas, discourses, and readings.

**July 18, 2008** - Guru Purnima Day, the day you honor your guru. Paduka Puja at 9:30am, Fire ceremony at 10am followed by an Indian feast.

**July 19 and 20, 2008** - Annual American Haidkakan Samaj meeting. To find out more about the Samaj go to their web site at [www.BabajiSamaj.org](http://www.BabajiSamaj.org)

**July 21 - July 25, 2008** - Annual Family Week at the Ashram

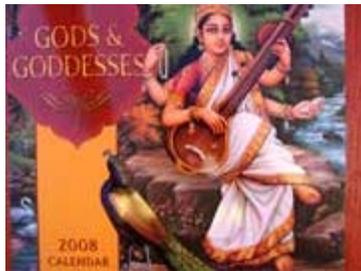
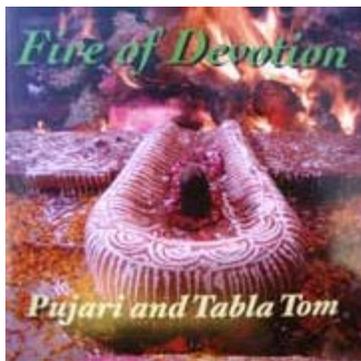
**September 29 - October 7, 2008** - Fall Navratri, nine days to honor the Mother. Daily fire ceremonies, pujas, discourses, and readings.

**October 28, 2008** - Diwali, the festival of lights. Fire ceremony at 10am. Chanting at 7pm.

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## Maha Lakshmi Shop Report

The Shop has received a new CD by Pujari from Holland accompanied by Tabla Tom. The CD has many wonderful chants sung in Pujari's very inspiring style. It sells for \$18.



We have also received many new items, just in time for holiday shopping, such as: God and Goddesses Calendars for \$13.95; tulsi necklaces with and without decorative beads for \$5; Deity comic Books for \$3;



Ganesh statues for \$5 and \$9; and brass hanging oms for \$9. We are happy to ship an item for you directly to your loved one with a card acknowledging the gift. You may also wish to consider sponsoring a fire ceremony in their name and we can send the mala or bracelet from Babaji's padukas to them.

You can call the shop toll-free at 866-686-4185 to order or for more information. We are open daily from 9am until 5pm. We do take Mastercard, Discover, and Visa. To view items in the Maha Lakshmi Shop, please refer to our newly updated [web site at BabajiAshram.org](http://www.BabajiAshram.org).

You may [order on line](http://shop@babajiashram.org) through paypal or e-mail us at [shop@babajiashram.org](mailto:shop@babajiashram.org), or of course, place the order over the phone. We love to talk with you.

We thank you for all of your shop purchases as the revenue from the shop is a huge support for the Ashram.

Bhole Baba Ki Jai!