

# Haidakhandi Universal Ashram

February, 2003

## *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.*

## Fall Navratri and Diwali by Ramloti

Each year the Divine Mother Festival seems more divine. This Fall Navratri had many memorable moments. Our friends, Jai Shree and Chandresh joined us from Los Angeles for the nine days. Their willing hands, good cooking, lovely malas, and Gujarati dancing added to the joy of the days.

The havans and pujas were powerful and the honoring of the children was a special event. Many Indians from Denver, Fort Collins, Colorado Springs, and Albuquerque attended and cooked incredibly delicious bhandaras for all to enjoy. Their appreciation for the Ashram and ceremonies grows with each year. Our appreciation for all that give of their love and service to the Ashram is reciprocal.



*Mother Amidst Hundreds of Flowers at Navratri*

Diwali (the festival of lights) followed after Navratri. This was once again a glorious gathering of many kindred souls praying for peace and light. The songs in the temple that evening were not only from our tradition but also from several other spiritual traditions: Shinji Shumeikai, Sufi, Native American, Buddhist, Jewish, and Christian. We all shared delicious desserts in the candlelit earthship to end the warm and special evening.

The following day, which is considered an auspicious time to begin new endeavors, we signed the contract on our new 64 acres of land. This was done in the temple following a special puja to Maha Lakshmi.



*Some of the Children honored at Fall Navratri*

# India by Jonathan, Prem, Ramloti, and Annee

*Jonathan made his first trip to India in October for Fall Navratri. Prem, Ramloti, Dee, and Annee went to India for a month in mid-November. Here are their impressions.*

**Jonathan:** My trip to India was quite nice. I traveled there with Lok Nath, who made my first trip easy for me. It was especially nice to visit Haidkahan after hearing about it for years. Navratri at the Ashram in Chilianaula and visiting Shastriji in Rajasthan were very special.



*Jonathan with Shastriji*

**Prem:** I really felt amazed at the sense of internal ease that I experienced on this trip. Everything seemed to flow harmoniously. Shastriji was alert and full of life. His family welcomed us warmly. The hike through the river valley in and out of Haidakhan was delightful. We were blessed with abundant quiet while staying on the gufa side. The Paduka Puja in Delhi was such a pleasant affair with Muniraj's serene presence. My heartfelt thanks to all we met and for their warm hospitality.



*Muniraj at Paduka Puja*

**Annee:** I feel so blessed and my life has been so enriched by this wonderful culture. We were hosted by Shastriji's family, Shri Muniraji, the Lal's, Deviji and Lakshmi and the Singh family with such love and care. Haidakhan filled me once again with peace and harmony like no other place I have traveled. This was a journey filled with much karma yoga, many pujas and lots of trains. I loved it all!

**Ramloti:** This year's trip to India was a mixture of inspiring experiences, fun-filled times, and intense karma yoga. Haidakhan, Muniraj, Shastriji, and the Paduka Puja were awesome. Traveling with my Ashram buddies was joyful and fun. Shopping for the Maha Lakshmi Shop was huge karma yoga. I loved it all too!

## Our Legendary Yogi by Kavi Paruchuri

Our dog, Yogi, was a great presence at the Ashram for the past nine years. Late summer we noticed that his hair was not growing back after his summer shave. The probable diagnosis, unfortunately, was a tumor, and the only treatment, chemotherapy. Yogi also began to behave irrationally and bit two visitors. We felt the kindest alternative was to put Yogi to sleep.

On the morning of Tuesday, October 15, Ramloti led Yogi to the temple for Mother's darshan. After giving him



chandan and kumkum, we walked him up the hill where we gave him a rudraksha mala. The veterinarian arrived, and Yogi passed away being held and caressed by numerous hands. We placed him in the grave and showered him with flowers, mantras, and prayers.

Some of us began to speculate about what Yogi's next incarnation might be. We all agreed he would probably be a great yogi. Yogi, you will be missed for your loving friendship and devotional service to the Ashram. Thank you.

# Good Friends

One of the things we hear a great deal about the Ashram is that it feels like family here. Together we sing, we cook, we eat, we laugh, we visit, we celebrate, we clean up, we plan, and sometimes we cry. Because we are a loving family, the tears come when we say good-bye. Such was the situation when some of our longtime supporters of the Ashram moved away this summer and late fall. Faye Ferris moved to Iowa to continue her studies at MIU. Hada and Hadani have moved to follow their hearts to Portugal. And even our Jen, who has worked at the Ashram doing everything for the last year and a half has moved on to teach children (fortunately she will remain in Crestone). Even at a distance, good friends ever remain close in the heart but we miss you!

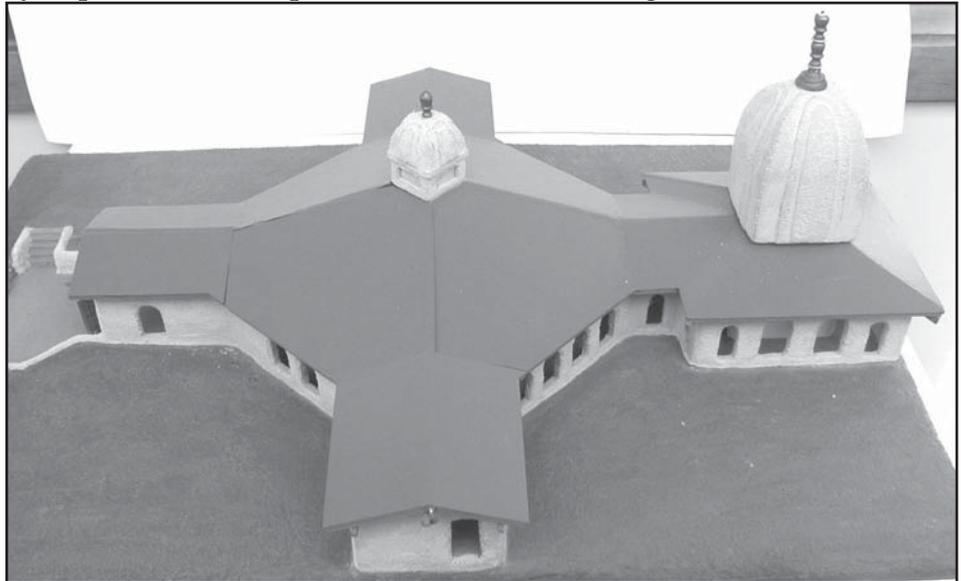


*Hadani & Ramloti on Jen's birthday*

# The New Kirtan Hall Model

This new model of the existing temple and proposed kirtan hall is displayed in the earth ship. Now all can visually experience how spacious it will be allowing us sit and chant together.

The original construction estimate was \$250,000 in 2002 but with increasing prices in materials and labor, we are now looking at \$298,000 in 2003. We currently have about \$101,000. We ask that you give generously so we can build in 2003 to avoid more increases in building costs. Thank you for your support.



**Yes, I want to build the Kirtan Hall at the Haidakhandi Universal Ashram**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation for the Kirtan Hall \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me sacred ash (vibhuti)

Donation to General Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me a piece of Mother's sari.

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ (Visa, MC, or Discover) Expiration 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.**

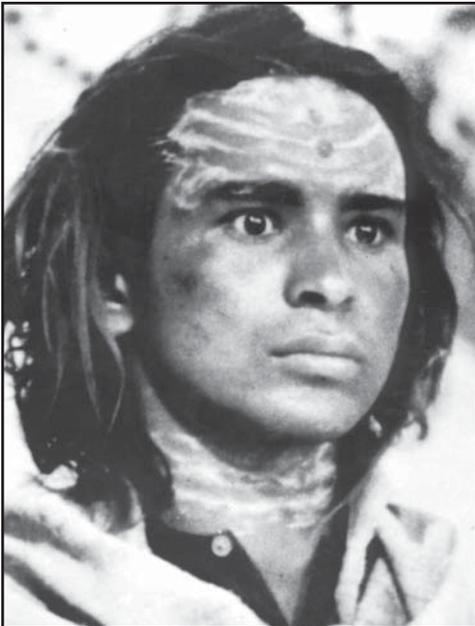
# Maha Lakshmi Shop by Annee Laird

Our huge buying trip to India has filled our shelves to overflowing! We have a large new selection in punjabi suits, kurtas, lunghis, saris, velvet tops, petticoats, wool kurtas, vests, and Om Namah Shivaya t-shirts. We also have children's t-shirts, fancy suits, and Om Namah Shivaya bracelets. Our shopping in Jaipur resulted in beautiful silver earrings, anklets, pendants, and rings as well as crystal and gemstone Ganeshes, lingams, padukas, and Buddhas. We have gorgeous silk altar cloths, wall hangings, purses, and banners as well as the Celestial Influences 2003 Calendars. Call with orders or questions toll free at 866-686-4185. Remember our website [www.BabajiAshram.org](http://www.BabajiAshram.org) has the catalogue in color!

## Calendar for 2003

*(Please note: Throughout the year we perform a large havan on every new-moon and full-moon.)*

February 14	Babaji's MahaSamadhi with Paduka Puja at 6pm before evening aarati.
March 1	Shivaratri - All night chanting from 10pm-4am. Fire ceremony on March 2 at 10:08am followed by a bhandara (feast).
April 2 - 11	Spring Navratri - Festival of the Divine Mother with daily fire ceremonies, Divine Mother pujas, readings, and bhandaras.
July 13	Guru Purnima Day with Paduka Puja, fire ceremony, and bhandara.
July 27 - Aug. 2	Children's Week and Workshop on the Havan (Sacred Fire Ceremony)
Aug. 2 & 3	American Haidakhan Samaj Annual Meeting
Sept. 26 - Oct. 4	Fall Navratri - Festival of the Divine Mother
October 25	Diwali - Festival of Lights



## Haidakhandi Universal Ashram

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*May Baba's and Mother's Blessings  
be with us all in the New Year.  
Please join us March 1 for Shivaratri  
or for Spring Navratri in April.*

*"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. This  
is one earth." Shri Babaji - April 7, 1983*



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