

MEHER BABA CENTER OF THE TWIN CITIES BOARD MEETING – AUGUST 24, 2008

The MBCTC board meeting was held on August 24, 2008 at the home of Bob and Monica Ochtrup. In attendance were Bob and Monica, Steve Cochrane, Karen and Mira Plante, Pat Cook, Rogier Gregoire, Diana Forsman, Sandra Self, and Leah Johnston. Sandy Schwanz, DJ Johnston and Betsy Dollar were missing in action due to the pressing weight of opposing sanskaras.

The Minutes from last month's board meeting were read and approved. The Financial Report was also read and approved.

Monica conveyed a message from bookstorewalla Nancy Okerlund, who inquired about our ordering intentions for this year's Sahavas. In past years, we have increased book inventory for the Sahavas. However, after a brief discussion of the pros and cons we decided not to increase inventory, with the exception of the 2009 Meher Baba Calendars, which will be offered for sale along with all back inventory items currently housed in boxes at the Okerlund/Kaplan mansion. The general feeling was that due to the online ordering accessibility of Meher Baba materials, less emphasis should be placed on our local supply. Karen suggested a sign-up list at the Sahavas in case there was any interest in a particular book being ordered in bulk.

President Thundercloud, at the prompting of President John Poag of the Heartland Center, mentioned a caretaking opportunity in Prague, Oklahoma. John is currently generating a list of people who may be interested in short-term caretaking opportunities. Bob and Monica Ochtrup expressed interest in being included on the Master list but requested more information before making a firm commitment. This request was so reasonable it left everyone speechless for five or six seconds.

Next, Leah made a motion to take any non-English books relating to Upasani Maharaj out of our MBCTC library and donate them permanently to Beloved Archives, in care of Naosherwan Anzar. Naosherwan contacted Leah via email and made this request because he plans to translate the materials into English and retain the originals with other archival material related to Meher Baba. The motion passed; not even Steve objected. Was that a sudden fit of agreeableness or just part of Cochrane's long-range plan to take over the world? Diana agreed to pick up the materials, scratch them off the permanent library inventory record, and mail them to Naosherwan.

Sahavas discussion ensued. We decided, unanimously and effortlessly, to keep the same schedule as last year. No one ripped out fistfuls of hair or launched themselves onto the ground in an episode of fist-pounding. President Thundercloud thanked Karen from the bottom of her heart for originally suggesting this brilliant idea at last year's Sahavas planning meeting.

Leah made a motion to give Diana a \$200 budget for flowers and snack food for Sahavas 2008. The motion passed.

The location of the September 21, 2008 board meeting has changed from Pat and Sandy's home to Diana's home.

Somewhere around noon, Rogier pointed out the window and we all turned just in time to see William Shakespeare's ghost wander in through the glass. President Thundercloud politely requested that he recite Act Four, Scene One from The Tempest. Since even dead poets cannot resist the opportunity to share their work, William bowed and said:

"Our revels now are ended. These our actors,
As I foretold you, were all spirits, and
Are melted into air, into thin air:
And like the baseless fabric of this vision,
The cloud-capp'd tow'rs, the gorgeous palaces,
The solemn temples, the great globe itself,
Yea, all which it inherit, shall dissolve,
And, like this insubstantial pageant faded,
Leave not a rack behind. We are such stuff
As dreams are made on; and our little
Life is rounded with a sleep."

After Shakespeare dissolved out the window, Sandra pointed out that the phrase "cloud-capp'd tow'rs" was so 16th century. All agreed and President Thundercloud adjourned the cloud-capp'd meeting.

SUBMITTED BY LEAH JOHNSTON