

MEHER BABA CENTER OF THE TWIN CITIES
Board Meeting, May 17, 2009

Spring was blooming in Diana Forsman's home. The soft sunlight filtered through the lush green leaves of the trees outside and in through the windows offering a fresh glow to her light and sunny home. The beautiful bouquets of freshly cut flowers from her garden offered additional color and cheer to the setting. Diana served a delicious breakfast to the group that was cozily gathered around her dining room table. We ate and chatted leisurely.

In attendance were Bob and Monica Ochtrup, Betsy Dollar, Pat Cook, Sandy Schwanz, Diana Forsman, Karen Plante, Steve Cochran, Mira Plante and Rogier Gregoire. Sandra Self and DJ Johnston were unable to attend.

President Pat Cook called the meeting to order at 10:57 AM. We briefly discussed the agenda for the meeting. Sandy read the minutes from the February meeting and they were approved as submitted.

Financial Report

Bob Ochtrup reported that our financial numbers have not changed since the last report. The center is in a secure position and about \$300 ahead for the year. The wiring of the funds to India cost \$50 this time. Seemed a bit steep.

We have wired our donations to India, \$500 for operations, \$2000 to development. We are one of five or six center who can accept donations. We then send them to India as grants once a year. Donors are not guaranteed that the money will go to India. We choose how the funds will be used, but we fully intend to donate them. Pat will add formal language of the grant provisions to this section.

Rogier moved that the financial report be accepted as submitted, Diana seconded. All approved except for Steve who nayed. (like a horse)

Davis Taylor

Our member, Davis Taylor had hip replacement surgery last week. While in the hospital they determined that he also has heart valve issues. He is

home now and doing well. A card for Davis was circulated and signed by those who were present. Davis is the author of the sonnets to Baba. It was suggested that we invite him to post two or three of his sonnets on our website. Monica will find out if he is interested in this opportunity.

Website Update

It was decided that the images currently on the website are OK. Pat will contact Chris about changing the department heading and updating some of the links. He will also continue to discuss the listserve/chat group option.

Sahavas

Karen had a recent discussion where it was recommended that we invite Tex Hightower to our next Sahavas. We had decided that this year there would not be a retreat format Sahavas, but we need to decide what we want to do this year as a gathering and begin investigating options for a larger meeting, perhaps with the Chicago group next year. Monica reminded us that we had chosen Charles Haynes for our next gathering. He requires a significant advance booking. Once we decide on formats, dates, etc. we can check on the availability of both Charles and Tex. We will talk at the next meeting about formats and costs and make some decisions. Karen suggested that we not rule out a future garage sale. Sandy made it very clear that her garage sale days are over. If we choose to have one it would be at a new location with new leadership.

Sunday Film Series

On Sunday, June 7, we will be showing a film made by Louis van Gasteren of Avatar Meher Baba in 1967 titled: **Beyond Words**. The original 35 mm film has recently been digitized and color corrected. It is the only existing color film in which we hear Eruch interpreting Baba's hand gestures.

Next Meetings

With very little to discuss it was suggested that we cancel our next two meetings. The Next meeting will be held Sunday, August 16th at the home of Pat and Sandy.

Monica reminded us that the second half of the film series is set to start in September.

Diana asked if anyone would be interested in doing a study group of the Master's Prayer (Oh, Parvardigar). She expressed her confusion with the prayer and would like greater understanding so that it holds deeper meaning for her as she recites it. After some discussion it was determined that Diana would find out what the interest level is across the whole group. If there seems to be sufficient interest, as there was among Board members, she would break the poem down into sections for people to research prior to meetings. It seems like a good winter activity. She will report back to the Board.

With no other business to come before the group, Pat adjourned the meeting at Noon.

Submitted by Betsy Dollar

5/18/09