

**MEHER BABA CENTER OF THE TWIN CITIES
ANNUAL MEETING
December 13, 2008**

On a cold December evening, members of the Meher Baba Center of the Twin Cities assembled in the community room of the Summit Townhomes. DJ Johnston was our hostess and all members, pot luck style, provided a magnificent spread of delectable dishes for our enjoyment. The Yule Log cake served as a birthday cake for Diana Forsman and all sang in honor of her birthday.

In attendance were Bob and Monica Ochtrup, Betsy Dollar, Pat Cook, Sandy Schwanz, Diana Forsman, Steve Cochrane, Karen and Mira Plante, DJ Johnston, Leah Johnston, Sandra Self, Rogier Gregoire, Nancy Okerlund, Susan Kaplan, Elizabeth Erickson and Judy Young. The group was thrilled to welcome our new members, Missy and Glen Choi, and their daughter Rachel.

President Leah Johnston called the meeting to order at 7:22 PM. Monica Ochtrup read excerpts from the writings of Wendy Haynes Connor, *All Baba Things Considered*. The topic was staying cheerful and not allowing oneself to be brought down by the things that Baba brings up.

Leah read the minutes to the November meeting. Diana moved that they be approved as submitted, Rogier seconded and they were approved.

Financial Report

Bob Ochtrup reported that we have \$3500 going into 2009 so we are in a sound financial position. There is \$9,100 in the Legacy Fund. The Sahavas cost us \$6000 and we collected \$4300. We were able to subsidize those costs with the \$1,800 that was raised through the Garage Sale and book sales. Since we are no longer having a Garage Sale we need to carefully consider fund raising and Sahavas planning.

With the Ayers donation, our community is in a secure financial position.

It was requested that the Board consider making a contribution to the Meher Baba Spiritual Center from the Legacy Fund. The Board will address this question at their next meeting.

Old Business

The books of Upasani Maharaj were discussed once again. After extensive discussion relating to their value and purpose, Pat moved that a few books be photocopied and kept with our library. The originals will then be shipped to Naosherwan's Beloved Archives. Judy Young seconded and the motion was approved. Leah will let Naosherwan know our decision. Karen will copy the relevant materials and return the originals to Diana who will then ship the books in early January.

New Business

New Board and Officers

Of the current Board, President Thundercloud has moved to Illinois and is stepping down as president of MBCTC. Steve is resigning as a member at large. Diana and DJ wish to continue as Board members. The slate of officers for the 2009 year is:

President: Pat Cook

Vice President: Sandra Self

Treasurer: Sandy Schwanz, with the assistance of Bob Ochtrup

Secretary: Betsy Dollar

Members at Large: Karen Plante, Rogier Gregoire, DJ Johnston and Diana Forsman

Judy moved that the slate of officers be approved as read from the November minutes. Elizabeth

Erickson seconded and all agreed, except Steve.

The official president's notebook was passed from Leah to Pat semi-ceremoniously. Photos were taken by Karen for the next newsletter. Sandra, as the president of vice, thanked Leah for her wisdom, playfulness and great work which she tries to disguise with her nonsense; but we all appreciate what she has done over the past several years.

Amartithi, January 30, 31 and February 1

Our guest is Jeff Wolverton. One of Jeff's suggestions for discussion was to share his thoughts on the New Life Book, including how we live the New Life as a community. The current plan is for a full day on Saturday and half day on Sunday. We will start Saturday with a brunch at Pat and Sandy's home. Saturday evening we will meet at the Summit Townhomes, and on Sunday we will gather at Nancy and Susan's home from 10 to 1:30, for a light lunch and conversation. Saturday evening's meal will consist of pizza, salad and dessert. Judy and Diana will bring salads, Betsy will bake cookies. Pat and Sandy will bring Baba pictures for the community room at the Summit on Saturday night. Elizabeth, Nancy and Diana will discuss the program.

What do we want to do over the next year?

Missy: Baba films, perhaps a Baba film festival, Diana: time to commune, short readings, meditations and discussion, three books and three films in the spring and fall, keep the Not A Pot Luck in March. Steve proposed a gouda night at Jessie's house. What to do about Baba's Birthday? Should someone contact Mary Ellen? Do we want to meet that day/night or wait until the weekend? February 28th is the Saturday.

A schedule and plan will be created at the next Board Meeting.

President Thundercloud adjourned the meeting at 8:45 PM.

We watched the DVD that Pat created of images from the Sahavas. We then gathered in a circle and remembered Mehera in honor of her birthday.

Submitted January 7, 2009