

MEHER BABA CENTER OF THE TWIN CITIES
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
January 20, 2008

The January Board Meeting of the MBCTC was held at the home of Leah Johnston on Sunday January 20th. Despite the sub zero temperatures outside, a warm and welcoming atmosphere was generated by all. After a delicious breakfast buffet the meeting was called to order at 10:32 AM by president Leah Johnston.

In attendance were Leah Johnston, Bob and Monica Ochtrup, Steve Cochrane, Karen Plante, Mira Plante, Betsy Dollar, Trevor Johnston, Diana Forsman, Pat Cook, DJ Johnston, Sandy Schwanz and Rogier Gregoire. Sandra Self was in transit and will arrive at some point in the meeting.

Leah read a section from *Listen Humanity*.

Steve Cochrane moved that the November minutes be approved as submitted without reading. All agreed. Steve then read the minutes of the December meeting aloud. DJ moved that the minutes be approved with two minor spelling corrections, Diana seconded and all agreed.

Rogier has joined us this morning with interest in rejoining the board. He explained his interest in representing the spiritual diversity of Meher Baba and challenging the underlying tendency toward sameness. He also sees himself as representing the dissident voice. Pat moved that Rogier Gregoire join the board as a member at large. Steve seconded and all were in favor.

A permanent mailing address

David and Clea's address is what is on file with the IRS. Pat Cook's address will become the official address for the MBCTC. State documents have already been changed. Bob will file the necessary papers for the IRS.

Sahavas

We were turned down by Buzz and Wendy Connor. Leah suggested that we invite Khaled back for another year. Diana suggested that we attempt to get Pascal Kaplan. He is an associate of Khaled. Leah will extend an invitation and then work on a musical guest. Billy Goodrum remains the first choice of the group.

Calendar

The first half of the calendar was generated at the December meeting. The remainder of the year was outlined as follows.

May 18th Board Meeting at Pat and Sandy's (contingent on Garage Sale date)

June 22nd Board Meeting at Diana's

July 20th Board Meeting at DJ's

August 17th Board Meeting at Bob and Monica's

September 21st Board Meeting at Leah's

October 19th DJ's

November 16th Sandra's

December 13th Annual Meeting hosted by DJ at the Summit Townhomes party room.

Pot Luck at 5:30 PM

Leah still needs to confirm with Mary Ellen as to whether the Baba Birthday celebration will happen.

Sandra Self has arrived.

Treasurer's Report

Bob Ochtrup distributed the 2008 membership forms which sparked a flurry of check writing activity. The new forms with photos were given a round of applause. Bob will be making color copies and completing a mailing of about 120 copies.

The Financial Report was distributed by Bob Ochtrup. He was just informed that Susan and Avery Ayers of Mystic, Connecticut, are donating \$500 to our local organization this year. We are starting the year with \$3387 in available funds.

Bob also voiced a concern that the books should be audited. Pat suggested that Jennifer Gostovic, Bob and Monica's daughter who is an accountant, would be an excellent candidate for the job. Pat moved to ask Jennifer to do the audit and attend a meeting to review her findings. Sandy seconded and all were in favor of the motion.

Leah moved that the treasurer's report be approved as submitted. Steve seconded the motion and it passed with Steve's lone nay vote.

Marge's Endowment Fund and the Myrtle Beach Initiative

The Myrtle Beach initiative has been distributed several ways, this week on line by Bob and last month by mail. The area has been encroached upon by development and has environmental as well as physical issues. DJ commented that the vision was written far too practically and omitted Baba's wishes and vision. They are trying to do more good works out in the community of Myrtle Beach and preserve the non-profit mission. Everyone should do the online survey for the Myrtle Beach initiative.

The other thing we should discuss soon is Marge's endowment fund. Yes it give us a strong base, but didn't she intend it to be doing more in the world in Baba's name? We should revisit our use of that money. (Add to a future agenda.)

Garage Sale

Sandy still needs to research date of the neighborhood sale.

Jagganathan Visit

Leah will be checking in with Jim Watson about the Jagganathan's visit. Krishna and Ratna are fine with any length visit. That's all we know right now.

Photo of Baba

Sandy and Karen thought that the photo of Baba was too beautiful to be sold to one person and decided to keep it for the group to rotate. It was part of the Sucoff collection. Steve moved to have it matted and framed. Sandy seconded and all were in favor. Karen will take care of it. Bob wants to take a photograph of it first.

Diana is enjoying our other rotating work of art from Khaled. She reported that is sparked a brief discussion among some of her friends who perceived of it projecting love.

Out Reach Activities

It was suggested that we attend a Twins game as a group and have our group announced as our public event. This was tabled for consideration.

Videotapes

Pat reported that the Lud Dimpfl tapes have been ordered for the cost of \$100. It was agreed that Tuesday nights at 7:00 at Bob and Monica's complex would work the best for viewing as a group.

Announcements

Sandy is going to India February 13th through March 13th.

Rogier described a daily compendium of quotes originally compiled by Maude Kennedy. He periodically tries to get them out on the internet.

Sandra described the situation of moving her dear friend Ishedvon (SP?) to an assisted living environment and asked for everyone's prayers and support.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 PM

Submitted by Betsy Dollar
February 16, 2008