

MEHER BABA CENTER OF THE TWIN CITIES
Board Meeting, January 18, 2009

The Board members of the Meher Baba Center of the Twin Cities gathered around the dining room table at the home of Sandy Schwanz and Pat Cook. Sandy and Pat presented a grand and hearty winter breakfast accompanied by animated conversation to warm and awaken the group on a cold and snowy morning.

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

After breakfast the group reassembled in the living room around the beautiful new fireplace. To center the group Pat asked for four minutes of silence. After the silent meditation, President Pat Cook called the meeting to order at 10:59 AM. Pat read the minutes from the December Annual Meeting and they were approved as submitted.

Financial Report

Bob Ochtrup reported that he closed the books for the 2008 year on December 31st. All is in good order. We have \$3659 in available funds. The \$300 owed to Naosherwan is still on the books, as it has been for years now. Bob suggested that we could solve this situation by making a \$300 donation to *The Glow*. Sandy so moved, Bob seconded and all were in favor. Bob will write the check and Monica will write a note to accompany the check.

New Year Business

The schedule for Board Meetings is as follows:

Sunday, February 15th at Betsy Dollar's studio

Sunday, March 15th at the home of Karen and Steve followed by the annual Not-A-Pot-Luck at the Como Zoo and Conservatory.

Sunday, April 19th at the home of Sandra Self

Sunday, May 17th at the home of Diana Forsman
Sunday, June 14th at the home of Monica and Bob Ochtrup
Sunday, July 19th at the home of DJ Johnston
Sunday, August 16th at the home of Sandy Schwanz and Pat Cook
Sunday, September 20th at the home of Krishna Malakapalli,
Sunday, October 18th at the home of Diana Forsman
Sunday, November 15th at the home of Bob and Monica Ochtrup
Saturday, December 12th, Annual Meeting location TBA in Burnsville

The other event that is scheduled to date is the dinner for Baba's Birthday on Saturday, February 28th at 6:00 PM at the home of Ratna and Krishna Malakapalli.

Jeff Woverton's visit for Amartithi

Logistics were reviewed for Jeff's visit. DJ had some questions about Saturday evening at the Summit Townhomes. It was decided that pizzas will be ordered from Davinni's once we know how many people are in attendance. Pat and Sandy will bring paper goods. DJ will get gallon jugs of water. Salads and cookies will be provided as indicated in the December minutes.

New Business

Donation to the Myrtle Beach Spiritual Center

The Center needs support toward operating funds. Rogier has requested that we express concern over how the center is using the principal of their endowment, not just the income from it. In these times that is hard, but they have been using principal funds for some time. Pat explained that the rule of thumb is to use an average from the past 16-20 quarters. Trouble can arise when all the interest is spent each year without an analysis of the trends. It appears that the center is taking a fixed percentage and not changing their spending habits. With the recent financial crash, they are currently down \$280,000 in their operating budget. They are committed to a charging a low daily rate, so they are asking the community to offer some support. They are also trying to increase business by encouraging

more group retreats. Bob pointed out that this for operations, not any form of expansion. Monica concurred with the fact that they are holding fast to Baba's wishes for the center.

We need to decide on the use of the Legacy Fund money. In the past we have just donated the earnings, but earnings are very low right now. If we want to make a difference we will need to use some principal. Sandy moved that we donate \$1,000 plus this year's earnings. Diana seconded and all voted in favor. Again, Bob will write the check and Monica will write the letter to accompany it.

What do we want to do this year?

After some discussion of the ideas that were offered by the membership at the annual meeting it was decided that we will meet on the first Sunday of the month in afternoons from 2 to 4 for a film and discussion. The first series will be in April, May, and June; the second series will be September, October, and November. Bob and Monica will host these events in the community room of their building.

Website Update

The group has dwindled to Pat, Betsy and Krishna. The next meeting will be on Saturday, February 14th at Krishna's house. Sandy Schwanz has agreed to be communications watch dog between Betsy, Pat and Kris. She will encourage and facilitate work on the website and gather loose ends. She will help to stay on top of keeping the website current and sending e-mails to the membership to link them to current info on the website.

Membership

Bob and Monica will get the membership renewal letters out in the next week.

With no other business to come before the group, Pat adjourned the meeting at 12:22 PM

Submitted by Betsy Dollar
1/30/09