



A NEWSLETTER FROM MEHERABAD



The names are carved in circles around the marble base of the tower.

The final stages of work on the Memorial Tower are going on now. As per Beloved Baba's instructions for the Tower, the carving of 353 names has been done, from December 2018 to March of this year. Baba stated in His message for the foundation ceremony of the Memorial Tower in December 1944: "There are also others . . . who served My Cause with unimpeachable integrity of character before dropping their physical bodies. For each one of them a separate flower is placed in the foundation of the Tower, and the names of all of them will be inscribed on the Tower of Glory which will be erected on this foundation."

The inlay of ceramic symbols of the world religions into the section above the base of the tower is currently being done. Baba said in His foundation message: "All the great world religions have in their own ways revealed the same One Truth which I bring anew, and this unity of all religions will be clearly emphasized by placing on the Tower the emblems of all the important world religions. The Tower shall thus be a silent proclamation of the unity of all religions."

Carving the Base of the Memorial Tower



The carving has been done by specialist stone carvers from Rajasthan.



In addition to the 353 prescribed names, the Tower includes this phrase that touches us all: "& those who are to come."

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Baba Family,

As I write, in the heat of our Meherabad summer, the final stages of work on Baba's Memorial Tower of Glory are going on. As the carving and inlay of the names and religious symbols comes to completion, the next work will be the landscaping of the surrounding area. At the same time, the finishing work of the pedestrian railway underpass is also being done.

As temperatures rise and we are firmly established in our dry season, we are facing drought conditions once again at Meherabad. All the wells are nearly dry. To offset the effects of sustained drought, the Trust is conducting large-scale improvement of our wells: cleaning and deepening some wells, and constructing horizontal bores from the center of others. In opening

the 200-foot horizontal bores, the top of the open well is covered with steel mesh for safety during blasting. The horizontal bores will bring more ground water into the existing open well.

The Trust is also constructing a new surface water storage tank made of excavated earth, with a plastic liner. The tank will be four meters deep below ground surface and four meters above ground, with a capacity of ten million liters of water. During the monsoons, as ground water rises and the wells are replenishing rapidly, we can pump water from the wells into this storage tank and use the stored water throughout the rest of the year.

Both water-saving projects will cost the Trust about 35 Lakhs (US\$50,000). Baba lovers are

welcome to help with special donations for these projects. Through this work we are helping to fulfill Baba's wishes as established in the Trust deed, to provide the "digging of a well or wells and/or obtaining independent water supply from available public sources" for Meherabad.

In Baba's Love,

Shridhar Kelkar, Chairman
Avatar Mehera Baba Trust

Avatar Meher Baba ki Jai!



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF PAUL LIBRION

New Exhibits in Baba's Museum



In the last year, the Archives workers have prepared and installed some lovely new exhibits in the Museum on Meherabad Hill. Keeping the museum vibrant and alive for visitors involves rotating the precious items from archival storage into the exhibit room. Every display case has been updated with new items, many of which have never been on exhibit before. Visitors to Meherabad, both old and new, can enjoy the beautifully displayed items from Meher Baba's life.

The Museum is located in a room in Meher Retreat, the building on the Hill that was originally a water tank. The room itself was used by Baba for seclusion work in the 1920s as well as to house the Meher Ashram boys and later some of the western women disciples who came to live with Baba.

One of Baba's pink coats, and His sandals, displayed in front of a photo of Baba wearing them. The garland, made of cut cotton lace, was presented to Baba during one of the Sahavas programs in the 1950s by Dr. A.K.Vasumathi.

New Trustee

At the meeting of the Board of Trustees on May 11, 2019, Dolly Kerawalla was selected to serve as a trustee of the Avatar Meher Baba Trust. Daughter of Sam and Roshan Kerawalla, Dolly was raised under Baba's guidance, as part of His intimate Jessawala-Kerawalla family. Baba named her Dolly, held her as a tiny baby, and was involved in every aspect of her life. Dolly has worked as both a lawyer and an accountant for organizations in Pune, and is now retired. She serves on the Board in place of Jehangir Sukhadwala, who passed away last year.



Photos of Baba in frames made by Mehera and the women in the early days at Meherabad. Typically, Mehera designed the objects, and together the women worked on them.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF JESSICA MEDNICK



MEHERA'S BIRTHDAY 2018

THREE DAYS OF CELEBRATIONS in December marked the birthday of Baba's Beloved Mehera. During Baba's time, Mehera's birthday was celebrated on 22nd December each year. "Mehera loves Me as I should be loved," were Baba's words for Mehera.

On Friday December 21st, there was an intimate sharing session of stories and songs under the tin shed at Upper Meherabad, where Mehera

and the other women mandali spent so many hours in Baba's company over the years.



On the 22nd, a special Meherazad day honoring Mehera brought Baba lovers together in the beautiful Meherazad garden and Mandali Hall for singing and distribution of special prasad.

An afternoon concert at the Theatre at Meherabad on Sunday gave the final touches to the commemoration. Mehera was remembered with song, dance, film, photos, and her own beautiful words about her Beloved.



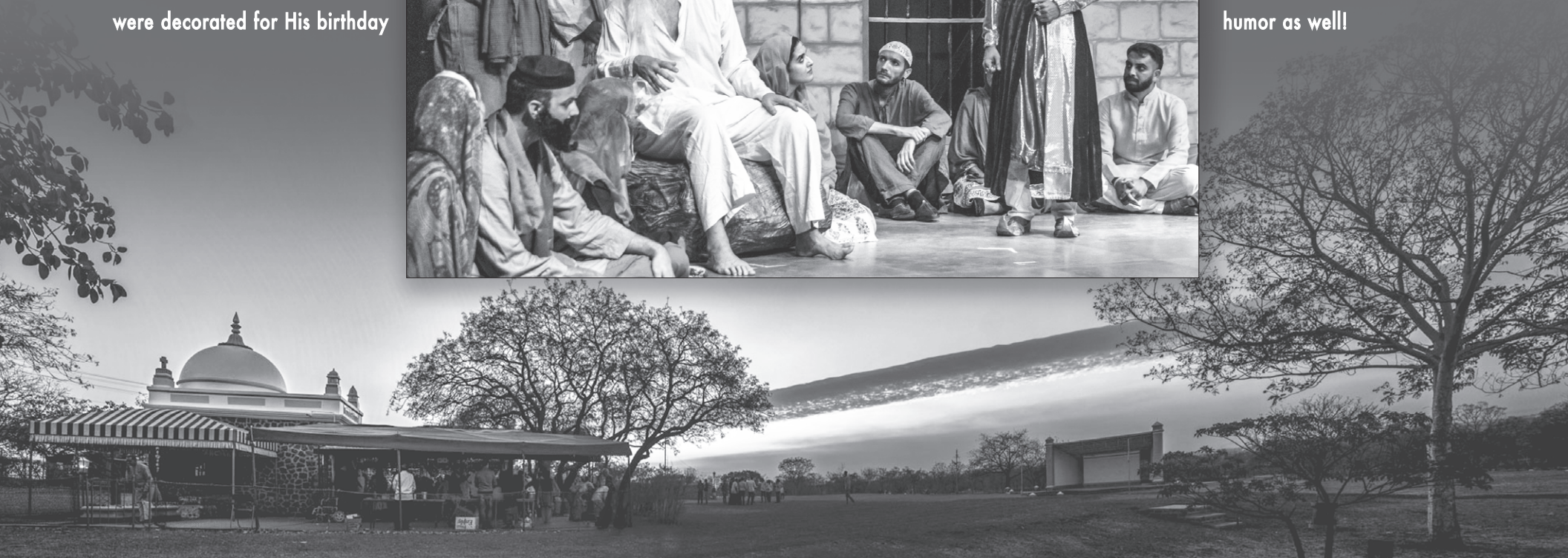
Baba's 125th Birthday Celebration

A GLORIOUS DAWN BREAKS on Meherabad Hill February 25, 2019, heralding the 125th anniversary of the birth (at 5:00 am) of the Avatar of our age. Baba lovers gather in the dark of early morning to be present with their Lord at His Samadhi for the 5:00 am prayers and arti program. Baba's Samadhi and His gaadi under the tin shed were decorated for His birthday



by happy Baba lovers from near and far.

The annual Baba Birthday play, "The Divine Crown and the Heavenly Rose," depicted scenes from the life of Baba's master Tajuddin Baba of Nagpur. Inspiring and touching, the story was not without some delightful humor as well!



Twenty Years of Cataract Surgeries in Meher Hospital

March 2nd, March 16th, and March 22nd 2019, were cataract surgery days in Meher Hospital at Meherabad, which marks the twentieth anniversary of such surgeries for the needy villagers in our area. A total of 20 patients were operated on in the three sessions this time.

It is interesting that Baba started arranging for cataract surgeries to be performed at Meherabad in 1926. Pendu used to explain how he would hang sheets to catch the dust and the bird droppings that could fall from the roof. And with this, the room would become the operating theatre!

More recently, Bhauji used to arrange for a government team to come once a year to perform cataract surgeries in Meher Health Center.

Then, in July 1999, the Trust started organizing regular monthly cataract surgery camps in Meher Hospital, thanks to a local eye surgeon who could do intraocular lens implantation, which gives much better results: no need for glasses with thick lenses after surgery! At the time, the government team that would come once a year to do a cataract camp did not use that technique. So

having our own eye doctor, we could provide the lens implantation as well as regular weekly eye consultations and monthly cataract surgeries, thus expanding the program to reach more patients.

Over the years the setup has continued to improve, with the purchase of an operating microscope in July 2000. In 2017, this was upgraded to a Zeiss microscope, thanks to

Baba lovers in Germany who asked the head of the company to give a discount for the AMBPPCT. This high-quality equipment allows the surgeon to operate on complicated cataracts, a real boon, as so many of the patients come in with an advanced stage of cataract growth.

Now we have about three cataract surgery days each month, except during the hot weather.

Children's Day At Meherazad

On February 21st, Meherazad hosted Children's Day for approximately 750 children from neighboring villages. Students from the primary school as well as the Shri Ram Vidyalaya High School in Pimpalgaon-Malvi participated by entertaining Meherazad residents and Meherabad pilgrims with music, singing, and dance performances.

These children have been enjoying this chance to come to Baba's home and have His darshan in Mandali Hall since 2012. Originally, in the early years after Baba dropped His body, Pendu, one of Baba's men mandali, started the program. It continued for many years to the delight of the children and visiting

pilgrims. However, after Pendu's death in 1986, it was discontinued until Falu Mistry, manager of Meherazad, decided to once again open Meherazad's doors to the children attending the village schools.

Chairman Shridhar Kelkar, along with some of the other trustees of Avatar Meher Baba P.P.C. Trust, attended the program and talked to the children about Meher Baba.

The program culminated with some of the high school students singing Happy Birthday to Baba in English, followed by Baba's Arti. Then it was time for all the children to enter Mandali Hall for His darshan and prasad.



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF PAUL LIBORON

Jal Retires

In accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Trustees, Jal P. Dastoor retired as trustee at the meeting of the Board of the Avatar Meher Baba PPC Trust held on 23rd February 2019. Jal has wholeheartedly served Avatar Meher Baba as a trustee since 1980. He continues to serve Baba at Meherabad as a Trust volunteer.

How to Contribute

The Avatar Meher Baba Trust is supported entirely by love-gifts from Meher Baba's lovers around the world. In truth, it is Baba Himself who gives through your hands, and it is Baba Himself who brings the objects to completion which He Himself laid down in the Trust Deed, when it pleases Him to do so.

Contributions can be made directly to the Trust at: AMBPPC Trust, Post Bag No. 31, King's Road, Ahmednagar 414001, MS, India. Donations may be sent by personal check or demand draft payable to Avatar Meher Baba PPC Trust and may be in any currency. In addition, a few Baba organizations in the USA and UK have established legal means to accept tax-deductible donations and transfer them to the Trust.

In the UK: Please send tax-deductible contributions to Meher Baba Association, c/o Sue Chapman, 2 Chapel Hill Row, Craster, Northumberland NE66 3TU, tel. 01 665 57 69 57, e-mail suchapman@hotmail.com.

In the USA, to make tax-deductible donations to support the Development Plan and/or Operating Expense grants being made to the Trust, please see the Trust's website (click on the "How to Help" button or search www.ambppct.org/fNat.php). The webpage lists the names and addresses of the U.S. Meher Baba tax-exempt organizations that make grants to the Trust and also provides information on making donations to the Trust by bequest or beneficiary designation.

Trust financial information is provided annually in the Trust Financial Report, sent out with the June issue of this newsletter and posted on the Trust website. The Financial Report details information on Trust receipts and expenditures; it also provides a current and projected expenditures report for the Trust Development Plan. More information can be found in the Trust's website at www.avatarmeherbabatrust.org.

AVATAR MEHER BABA'S 50TH Amartithi

Over 23,000 Baba lovers were accommodated at Meherabad for the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Baba dropping His physical body. From all over India and abroad, all gathered together near His Samadhi on the Hill for 15 beautiful minutes of silence, at noon on January 31st, 2019.



WHAT IS THE AVATAR MEHER BABA TRUST?

CREATED IN 1959 under Meher Baba's direction, the Avatar Meher Baba Trust has the purpose of fulfilling the objectives in the Trust Deed set out by Baba and the Trustees He appointed. The Trust Deed calls for the maintenance of Avatar Meher Baba's Tomb; for the creation of pilgrim facilities; for educational, medical, and other charitable services; for estate development and procurement of sources of water; for the advancement of Avatar Meher Baba's love-message through melas, museums, lectures, publications, and the arts; and for spiritual training.

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OTHER COUNTRIES: mailroom@sheriarpres.com.

Subscribe to Tavern Talk (the Trust's electronic newsletter): <http://mymeherbaba.com/mailman/listinfo/tavern-talk>.

Or sign on via the Trust website:

<http://ambppct.org/subscription.php>.

For Reservations to Stay at Meherabad:

FOR MEHER PILGRIM RETREAT: pimco@ambppct.org.

FOR HOSTEL D/DHARAMSHALA: jaibaba@ambppct.org.

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POST BAG NO. 31, KING'S ROAD, AHMEDNAGAR 414001, MAHARASHTRA STATE, INDIA.