



Welcome to My World: Meherazad Opens to Pilgrims

The green gates of Meherazad have finally opened wide once again, welcoming His lovers freely in all its aspects, like those we were able enjoy before the restrictions were put in place due to the pandemic. At Meherazad, the air itself is permeated by the atmosphere of His life as the God-Man. Mani would often say, at Meherazad one glimpsed the “household Baba.”

Pilgrimage to Meherazad is a once-in-seven-hundred-years peek into Meher Baba’s divine humanity, as well as a look into the work He did for humanity. Baba once commented that the work He accomplished in Meherazad has not been done anywhere else in the world.

In describing the two main places associated with His Advent, Baba revealed that Meherabad and Meherazad are like His two eyes: both independent

of each other, but together forming one image of Him. Meherabad is the location of His Samadhi, and is fast becoming a place of world pilgrimage. Meherazad is where He lived with those men and women mandali selected by Him to serve His day-to-day needs. This property, bought in 1944

and christened by Baba in 1948 as Meherazad, meaning Meher Free, is where Baba stayed the longest period of time in between His numerous world travels. And it is at Meherazad where He dropped His physical form. In Meher Baba’s lifetime, Meherazad was divided into two sides: the men’s and the women’s side, and this pattern continues today.

Two sides, separate but united in surrender to Him, and reflecting the variegated shades of living with the God-Man.

A walk through Meherazad brings to life His time on earth.

On the Women’s Side

Stroll through Mehera’s garden, sit in the intimacy of Baba’s room, peek inside the kitchen where Naja cooked His food. All this paints a portrait of the day-to-day life He lived. . . . Glimpse the sitting room where the women would gather around Baba’s gaadi, and step into the room shared by His beloved Mehera with His sister Mani. All these places open our hearts to the ways of the Avatar when He comes as the Perfect Man.

Walk under the arbor that separates the women’s side from what was known as the men mandali’s side of Meherazad and the New Life Caravan appears

before you. This vehicle was made to afford some little sleeping privacy to the four women who accompanied Baba on the New Life: Mehera, Mani, Meheru, and Dr. Goher.

On the Men’s Side

Walk further and you come to Mandali Hall, where pilgrims can take darshan at His Seat and see where He conducted the affairs of the Universe. The men mandali dubbed it the Office of the Avatar, and in the last years of His life Baba would work for humanity in seclusion there.

Nestled into the corner of the verandah is the Blue Bus, the vehicle used by Baba in multifarious ways, from touring with His women disciples throughout India to it’s metamorphosis into the site of His Great Seclusion. And walking further along the verandah one comes to the Manonash cabin where He completed the last phase of the New Life.

Wherever He takes you at Meherazad, He is there. Whether you are intrigued at the thought of following His footsteps up Seclusion Hill, spending time in His room, hearing stories in Mandali Hall, or sitting on Mehera’s porch or in the beauty of her garden, at Meherazad one steps back into the intimate, ever-living history of the Advent.



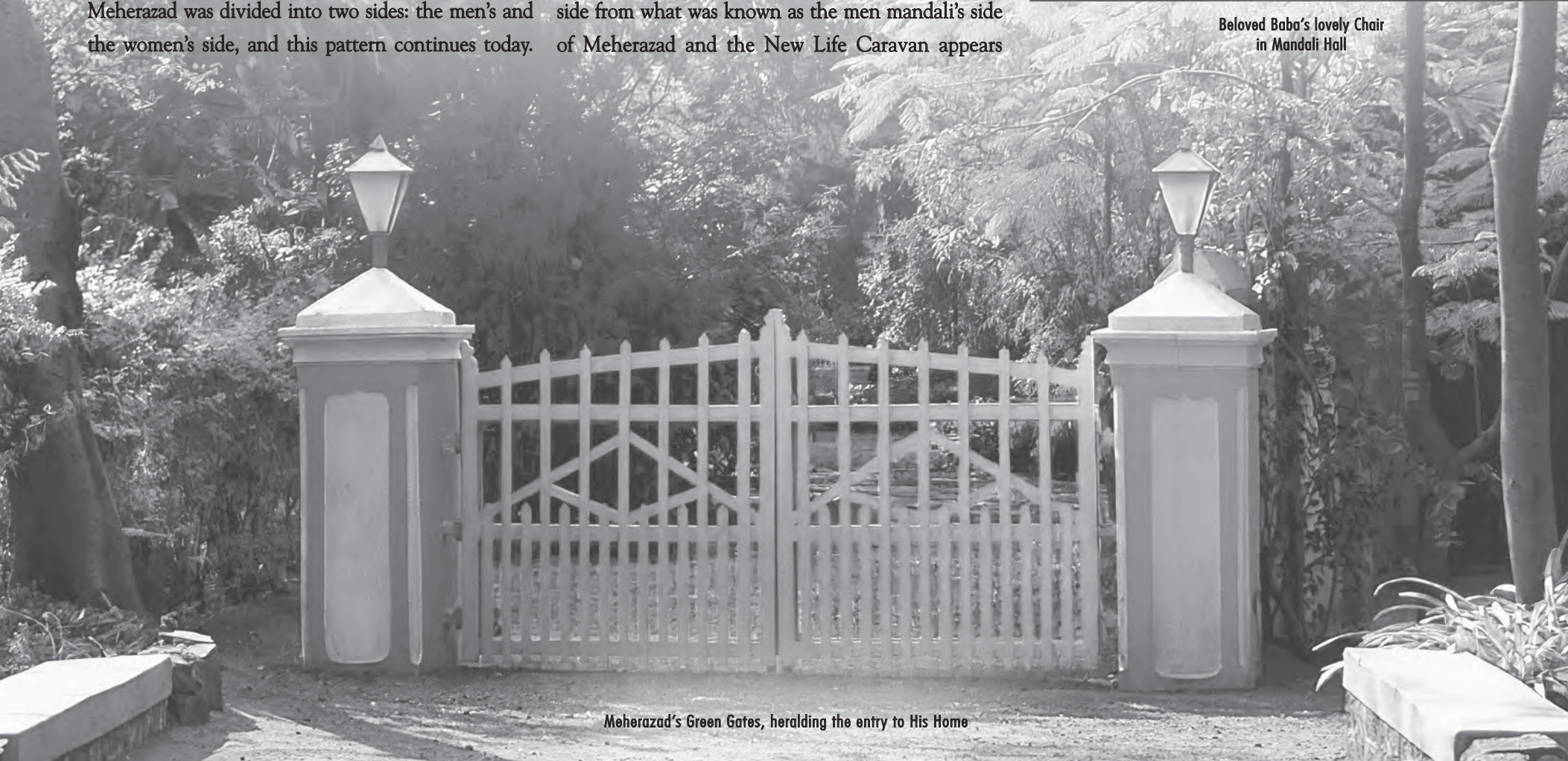
Pilgrims looking inside the Blue Bus



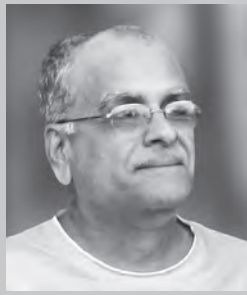
Women delighted to touch Mehera’s bed



Beloved Baba’s lovely Chair in Mandali Hall



Meherazad’s Green Gates, heralding the entry to His Home



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

“YOUR JOB IS TO REMEMBER ME; EVERYTHING ELSE IS MY JOB.”

MEHER BABA

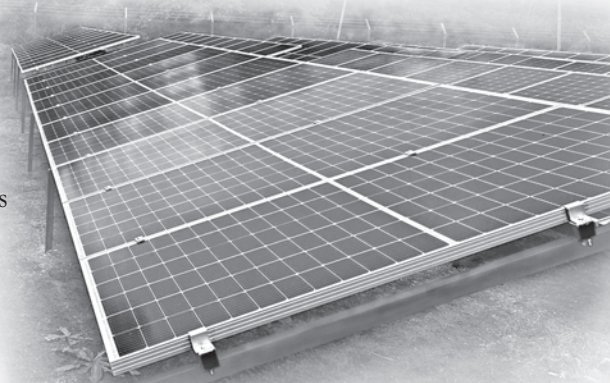
Our dear Baba family,
Jai Meher Baba!

It is with great joy that Beloved Baba has enabled us to reopen His Samadhi, the pilgrim facilities, and His home, Meherazad. Just as you have all longed for the chance to come to Meherabad and Meherazad on pilgrimage over these past two years, we have also missed having you here with us. Nevertheless, the work of the Trust has continued in earnest over this period, and if it could be said that there was a silver lining in the pandemic, in retrospect, it was the time it afforded us to complete some much-needed projects.

New Solar Installation

With the reality of climate change upon us and with the number of pilgrims at Meherabad growing, our electricity costs have risen substantially.

Given the need to move ahead with a green and environmentally sound policy, we are happy to inform you that solar panels have now been installed in Lower Meherabad, similar to those fitted at the Archive Building and MPR a few years back.



Solar panels absorbing sunshine to turn into electricity

Restoration of Important Baba Sites and Objects

In addition, during this period we have completed extensive repairs, renovations, and general maintenance of buildings, structures, grounds, and sites at Meherabad and Meherazad. Since many of these buildings and sites are within the designated “core” zone of the Trust’s Master Plan, special loving care in executing the repairs and renovations could not be rushed and required our utmost attention. At Meherazad, we were able to complete some new exhibits for pilgrims, which had been pending for a number of years due to insufficient time to complete them. Baba’s De Soto car, gifted to him by Nariman and Arnavaz Dadachanji on His 60th birthday, is now on display. Baba was driven in this car during the sixties, and even after Baba dropped His physical form the car was utilized by Mehera and the women mandali on their twice monthly trips to Meherabad for darshan at Baba’s Samadhi. The old garage has been turned into a proper home for the car where it can be viewed to the delight of all while being protected from the elements. During this same period, an archivally sound room was built to house the trunk of the Umar tree, upon which Baba’s image had appeared. Now, not only is it preserved for posterity but pilgrims can see it when they visit Meherazad.

Helping Villages Obtain Water

One of the objects of the Trust has been to encourage and provide assistance to the villages located in the areas surrounding Meherabad and Meherazad. Arangaon village, neighbouring Meherabad, and Pimpalgaon-Malvi, situated near Meherazad, have faced uncertainty concerning water scarcity for decades.

With Baba’s blessings, and the Trust’s help, 2022 will be a landmark year for these two villages as they soon will be self-sufficient in water: This past year the Trust helped Pimpalgaon-Malvi village meet its water needs by providing funds to dig a new well by the Pimpalgaon lake. An abundant water supply was struck within the first seven feet, and although it proved difficult to dig the well to forty-two feet and construct the walls, it was by His grace completed successfully, ensuring the entire water needs of Pimpalgaon-Malvi village.

Similarly, the Trust was asked and agreed to lease some 10,800 square feet to the Gram Panchayat Arangaon (village body). The lease is for the construction of a water reservoir of 5 lakh (half a million) litres, an underground sump of 25 lakh (2.5 million) litres, and a pump house to receive and distribute drinking water from MIDC Ahmednagar to Arangaon. This project is a government undertaking under the Jal Jeevan Mission Program, Ministry of Jal Shakti. Here, too, Baba has fulfilled the water needs of all Arangaon villagers, many of whom previously needed to come to Meherabad every day to fill up pots and drums for their daily water supply.

Children Return to School and Have Some Fun Learning

On June 15, 2022, the children of Meher English School happily returned to their classrooms and in-person learning. Following lessons online during the COVID



Beloved Baba being driven in His DeSoto car, a 60th Birthday gift from Nariman and Arnavaz Dadachanji

STILL PHOTO FROM MANI FAMILY FILMS COURTESY OF SHERIAR FOUNDATION

pandemic caused great hardship to the majority of village families. Many of the children had to do their lessons on their parents’ mobile phones, since most families do not own home computers.

Returning to school after such a long hiatus has proved to be a testing time for the teachers as well, not only in helping students regain lost skills, but in readjusting to the demands of the classroom. Learning should be fun and exciting, and with the Trust’s help a few classrooms now have LED screens; hopefully, they will soon be installed in every classroom. This e-learning tool provides a stimulating and fun way for students to learn through the visual process, especially exciting for students in the lower grades.

Many of you might recall how Baba’s sister Mani loved to play with your children when you brought them on pilgrimage. She delighted them by making shadow puppets of animals, using the wall as her screen. Now we will soon hear the same squeals of delight from Meher English School children as their teachers present mathematical concepts with the help of a monkey suddenly somersaulting out of sight to illustrate subtraction, or animals filling the screen to facilitate counting and addition. Baba had said that all the technology and inventions that have come about during His Advent were there to facilitate His work, but afterward the technology would be of benefit to humanity. Now we are seeing that come to pass in so many areas of life, including education.

New Physical Education Centre

The village of Arangaon, under the auspices of the Trust, has received a new Physical Education Centre. The old centre at Hostel B in Lower Meherabad has been relocated to a bigger facility at the New New Site in Upper Meherabad. We were fortunate to purchase some high-quality exercise equipment at a low price since a gym in town was forced to close down during COVID. Plans are also afoot to create a running track, a practice cricket pitch, and two volleyball courts. The rooms for yoga, study, and table tennis are nearly ready for use, and the community of residents, pilgrims, and locals are happy with this development as they can enjoy playing, training, and studying in the atmosphere of Baba’s Love.

IT Experts Help Track Trust Lands

The Trust has also been working to improve the ways our records are kept, particularly land records. Baba lovers from Hyderabad, with their considerable IT skills, have developed a land record software program by means of which the Trust can now retrieve precise and immediate information for all Trust lands. This previously cumbersome task is now instant and only a few clicks away.

Foreign Donations Still Restricted

All these developments and work projects have been completed despite the difficulties we have faced since the government froze all incoming foreign donations.

This restriction has placed great stress on the Trust’s financial situation, as the majority of our donations come from abroad. Although we have appealed this decision, thus far there has been no change in the status of our application for renewal of registration. We can never understand His ways. Nevertheless, Baba’s objectives in the Trust Deed remain at the forefront of our work. And in this endeavour, we continue to try our best, remembering that the result is in His hands alone.

Silence Day

The much anticipated Silence Day program, which was held this year from July 8th to July 13th, has really become a mini-Amartithi. One thousand two hundred and seventy-five pilgrims were accommodated in the Hostels, 20 in Dharamshala, and 245 at MPR (a total of 1,540, not counting the many locals). It is a fantastic and unique occasion to witness such a large crowd of people all keeping silence on this special day of the year when Baba lovers from all corners are united in their focus on remembering the Silent One. And by the time the sun goes down, the mind is calmer and stiller, having been free of the useless chatter of the day. And although it is surely our efforts to keep silence that please Him, rather than accomplishing the task faultlessly, one cannot help the inevitable disappointment when a word or sound escapes the mouth!

Young Adult Sahavas

The Meherabad Young Adult Sahavas was held from September 18th to 24th, bringing His young ones to Meherabad to participate in a week full of group discussions, presentations, talks, music, service projects, sports, and other workshops. And this year, there was also a trip to Sakori. The 2022 program was attended by 129 young adults, intoxicated in the joy of sharing Baba’s presence with other sahavasees, living the call found in the program brochure: “Each moment of this Sahavas, let us be aware of His Presence. Our Sahavas is with Beloved Baba . . . Baba Baba Baba!”



Young Adult Sahavasees cleaning part of Memorial Tower

In sharing this news with you all, and reflecting on how our Beloved Baba has been helping us through these unprecedented times, I am reminded of His words:

“ . . . For it is to live in your hearts and to share
in your lives that I have come amongst you.”

MEHER BABA

BELOVED BABA’S FIRST VISIT TO MEHERABAD



When Beloved Baba walked with His mandali down a dusty track from Ahmednagar on May 4, 1923, and sat under a neem tree, who but He Himself knew what a memorable day in His Advent that was. For from

this desert place, His dear Meherabad would flourish under His hand and become the world’s sacred site of pilgrimage for ages to come.

May 4, 2023, will be the 100th Anniversary of that unique day, and to honor its

Centenary, the Avatar Meher Baba Trust has organized a two-day program on May 4th and 5th, 2023, to celebrate. All are welcome to participate, under guidelines sent out by the Trust in November 2022.



Baba leading His devoted followers down Meherabad Hill, toward Lower Meherabad

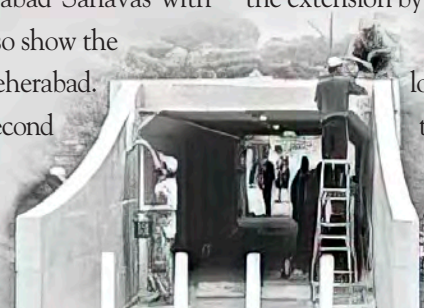
THE SECOND RAILWAY

The official Railway Department has long informed the Trust that it will add a second railway track next to the first track that carries a train through Meherabad. As Baba lovers will recall, a railway line has always had to be crossed to go to Upper Meherabad from Lower Meherabad and vice versa. Baba took trains all over India for His work, and a popular Baba film shows Beloved Baba waving at a train carrying His lovers away as they leave a memorable Meherabad Sahavas with Him. Early photos also show the railway passing by Meherabad.

The work on the second track is now under way. The Railway

Department has recently changed the plan about where to put the second track: instead of running along the east side of the existing track, the second will now run along the west side.

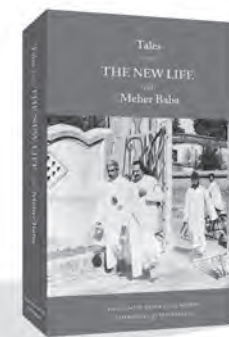
As a result, half of the approach ramp and the underground pedestrian tunnel under the railways at Meherabad have been demolished and extended by five meters on the western side. Some Young Adult Sahavasees have given charm to the extension by repainting the extended walls and adding more lovely art on the inside of the underground tunnel.



Sahavasees painting tunnel extension

Tales from the New Life Third Edition is Forthcoming

It has been fifty years since Don Stevens taped Eruch, Mani, Mehera, Meheru, and Rano in 1972 talking about their memories of accompanying Beloved Baba on His New Life. So the Trust is especially glad to announce that its copyrighted, third edition of *Tales from the New Life* will be made available by Meher Mownavani.



Creation and its Causes is now published

In July 2022, the Avatar Meher Baba Trust was pleased to present to the world the much-awaited book, *Creation and its Causes*, published by Sheriar Foundation. It contains a unique collection of thirty-four lectures given by Meher Baba to the Prem Ashram boys about creation cosmology and the spiritual

path, with insights unlike anything that He gave before or ever gave after. The book’s source manuscripts can be read in digital facsimile on the Trust website at <https://avatarmeherbabatrust.org/creation-and-its-causes/>, and the book itself is available through Sheriar Books, <https://www.sheriarbooks.org/>.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KITYA MIIR

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANKAS MANI MEDIA TEAM

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MEHER NARAYAN PUBLICATIONS

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANKAS MANI MEDIA TEAM

A Happy Meherabad Hill Update

The Trust's Chairman and trustees, seeing that the COVID virus had substantially decreased, on July 1, 2022, decided to remove the screen outside His Samadhi threshold so that pilgrims could walk inside. However, a railing was placed in front of Baba's marble stone, as was done at Amartithi.

On the same day, Beloved Baba's Cabin and Kitchen were opened, and His gaadi was again placed under the Tin Shed so that pilgrims could bow down and lovingly offer flowers there.

Baba's Bedroom and the Museum were also opened, both from 5:00–6:30 p.m. daily except Sunday.

As a result, Beloved Baba's Silence Day on July 10th was observed very peacefully this year with a gathering of many pilgrims visiting His Samadhi in silence. They also made use of the accommodations now open to pilgrims.

As COVID cases continued to recede, on September 4th the railing inside the Samadhi was removed, and Baba's dear lovers can now bow down at His Feet and offer flowers every day.

Entry Gates and Gate Pillars Recently Installed

A gate has been installed at the entry to the vehicular road up Meherabad Hill toward Baba's Samadhi. This will be closed and locked at night by Trust security to block cars and motorcycles from going up the Hill after evening arti.

Another small entry gate and railing were installed near Baba's Dhuni platform at Lower Meherabad to prevent cars and motorcycles from entering and parking where pilgrims gather to be present at the Dhuni on the 12th of every month. New pillars at the gateways of Lower Meherabad have also been finished. They are reproductions of the memorable pillars on Meherabad Hill from Beloved Baba's time, which lead into His Compound.

How to Donate

The Trust is supported entirely by love-gifts from Meher Baba's lovers around the world. In truth, it is Baba Himself who gives through their hands, and it is Baba Himself who brings the objects to completion which He laid down in the Trust Deed, when it pleases Him to do so. Please see "How to Donate" on the Trust's website: www.avatarmeherbabatrust.org/where-to-contribute/

Another way to support the Trust is to list it as a beneficiary in your personal legacy. See "Legacies": www.avatarmeherbabatrust.org/legacies/

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. More information can be found there at www.avatarmeherbabatrust.org.

Current news about foreign donations

Although the Trust cannot accept foreign donations at this time, we encourage Trustwallas and Meher Baba organizations to continue to collect the love offerings from Baba lovers and to keep the funds on account until such time that we will be able to accept them.

Pilgrim Accommodations—New Schedule

Many pilgrims noted that in 2022 the accommodations at Meherabad—MPR and Hostel D—stayed open throughout the Indian summer for the first and only time. This was because Baba's lovers were not permitted to stay at Meherabad during the two years of lockdown due to the pandemic.

Happily looking ahead, a new schedule will be in place for accommodation during the Indian summers, so pilgrims will always have a place to stay at Meherabad over the hot season.

HOSTEL D will remain closed for the summer

from March 15th to April 30th and will reopen for the following pilgrim season from May 1st.

MPR will remain closed for the summer from May 1st to June 14th and will reopen for the following pilgrim season from June 15th.

A notable exception is that in 2023 ONLY, both the MPR and Hostel D will remain open in the first week of May. This is to accommodate pilgrims attending the Centenary program in celebration of Beloved Baba's first visit to Meherabad one hundred years ago, on May 4, 1923.

NONNY'S "RAINCOAT"

Soon after His dear Nonny Gayley passed away and was cremated in Bangalore in 1939, Beloved Baba had a shrine made for her ashes near His Samadhi. At His wish, it was inscribed, "Nonny, Baba's lover." Hers was the first shrine of His women disciples interred on the Hill. An elegant, sophisticated woman, Nonny left everything to follow Baba, and lived with Him at His ashrams on Meherabad Hill, in Bangalore, and others during the Blue Bus tours. She had a unique relationship with Baba, and was the mother of Rano, one of His close women mandali.

As the thick marble on her shrine is lower in the mid-section, years of water from the monsoon have pooled there, and turned the marble to dark gray. To prevent that happening again, the Trust archive group have cleaned the marble and covered it with a special "raincoat" like other shrines nearer to His Samadhi. When her clean shrine dries out, the marble will be sealed with special wax to preserve its lovely new look.

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

Or sign on via the Trust website: www.avatarmeherbabatrust.org

For Reservations to Stay at Meherabad:

FOR MEHER PILGRIM RETREAT: pimco@ambppct.org.

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

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