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Master's News

Historic Special One-Day Bhandara

(August 15, 2012, Manapakkam, Chennai)

On August 11, 2012, Master asked brother Kamlesh Patel to summon an extraordinary meeting of the Working Committee of the Mission for August 15th at the Babuji Memorial Ashram. The next evening, Master called the ashram manager to inform him of his decision to hold a special one-day bhandara. He then dictated an invitation to be sent out to all abhyasis via *Sahaj Sandesh* to attend this general body meeting for which three satsanghs were planned.

Since July 5th Master had undergone a trying period of treatment for infections, and had suffered untold pain uncomplainingly, as usual. It was an anxious time for abhyasis as well. Deprived of normal food intake, Master had lost weight and had become immobilized in bed for the longest period of his life. His call for a bhandara therefore surprised abhyasis the world over. Immediately preparations began in earnest! The reliable Mr. Francis of Bangalore was summoned with his materials and team, as he is quite experienced at setting up the infrastructure for our bhandaras in Tiruppur. Volunteers from Tiruppur arrived to provide facilities for the 10,000 – 15,000 abhyasis who were expected. Tents and *shamianas* (ceremonial tents) appeared in every flat, open area to provide shelters. Wonderfully, the call from Master's heart brought 21,000 abhyasis within two days to Manapakkam.

Accommodation was a big challenge, which was handled smoothly overall. Almost all abhyasis who lived near the ashram made their houses available for visiting abhyasis, creating a real feeling of brotherhood through sharing and living together. The Omega School also accommodated about 1,500 abhyasis, and about 900 more stayed at a hall in a nearby church.

As Master wished that the ashram be decorated, on the night of August 14th, flowers, lights and other decorations were being applied allaround—to Master's cottage, the Babuji *mantap*, Ruchi Café, the meditation hall and the ashram entrance. When he learned of all the activity and the arrival of many abhyasis, Master decided, to everyone's surprise, to get into a wheelchair and go for a round.



Master's News *(continued from p. 1)*

After emerging onto his verandah and visiting the Babuji mantap, at about 8:00 p.m. he ventured out to see the decorations in the meditation hall, taking those working there by surprise. The meditation hall was bedecked with flowers all around, from the ceiling level to the top of the pillars, in the Roman style. When Master returned to the cottage his face was glowing.

The stream of arriving abhyasis seemed never-ending, yet even with so many present, orderliness and calmness pervaded. Everyone lent a hand. Brother Kamlesh Patel conducted the 6:30 a.m. satsangh. As the mass of abhyasis left the hall, self-discipline prevailed. Calmly, everyone maintained the atmosphere and none tried to go into the cottage to see Master.

All abhyasis were requested to reassemble at 9:30 a.m. for Master's presence in the meditation hall. Around 10:30 a.m., he arrived in a wheelchair equipped with an oxygen cylinder to assist his breathing. The recent illness seemed to have taken a very big toll on his physical being and he seemed to have considerably weakened. Every word or movement was a strain on his physical system. Most abhyasis present were seeing him after a long spell of anxiety about his health and were visibly happy to see him before them.



Master spoke about his current illness and how it had affected him. He said that he would like to resign from the post of president of the Mission and appoint brother Kamlesh Patel in his place. He asked the Working Committee members if they would

agree to his, but they suggested an alternative: Master should continue to be the president and appoint brother Kamlesh Patel the vice president. Master asked for the opinion of the assembly who expressed their support by applause all around. Master said that the vice president shall exercise the powers, duties and responsibilities of the president under Master's direct guidance and supervision. After this, Master conducted a short sitting for about 15 minutes and then returned to his cottage.



Before the evening satsangh, conducted by brother Kamlesh Patel, the secretary and joint secretary of the Mission clarified the morning's events, and the resolution passed by the Working Committee recording the appointment of brother Kamlesh Patel as vice president of the Mission was read to the assembly.

After satsangh, brother Kamlesh gave a talk making two important points: first, one does not need any position or title to do Mission work or to serve the Mission; and second, unity and harmony are the need of the hour, to be maintained by all brothers and sisters under all circumstances and at all costs. He also shared how happy Master was when he was told that 21,000 people attended the bhandara. Master had exclaimed, "Just on two days' notice, so many have come ... they are my people!"

After the evening satsangh was over, when abhyasis

Master's News (continued from p.2)

began dispersing, managing the traffic on the main road outside the ashram was a huge challenge. The prevailing mood among the faithful devotees was one of relief, since Master had dropped his original intention of resigning and had graciously agreed to continue at the helm of the Mission. At the same time, he was taking an important step to lighten his heavy administrative burden by shifting much of it to the younger shoulders of his nominated successor.

Brother Kamlesh's Talk

*Excerpted from: Clarifications on Our Daily Practice
Kamlesh Patel, July 23, 2012, Tiruppur, India*

Many abhyasis have the common problem that they are not able to maintain their condition. First of all, I must have something to maintain. What am I going to maintain when I don't have it? I have to create that condition, and it will not be created unless I have done my proper meditation.

Actually, the preparation for meditation starts, or should start, at bedtime when I am offering prayers to Master. After it, I submit myself and say, "Master, I would like to get up early. I would like to meditate. I would like to invite you." I prepare myself mentally and emotionally and wait for the morning to come; and as soon as I get up, and finish my usual stuff, I meditate. I must create that impatience. If I don't have it naturally, then create it artificially. It doesn't take long to make it natural. It will happen. Surely it will happen. Please try it out.

I have seen that most abhyasis are studying, or working with some company or in their own business. When you have to leave at eight o'clock for work, give yourself three hours from when you wake up. If you are a prefect, give yourself four hours. So, if you have to leave at eight o'clock, get up at four. Only then will you be able to finish your meditation properly, to the heart's satisfaction. Then what happens? You prepare yourself for meditation right from the night, even inviting Master with so much love. It goes on and on and on – your meditation is superb. But the very thought comes that you have to go to work now, and then you rush.



As soon as the meditation is over, and you rush about, you have destroyed that condition. A condition for which you worked for one hour is lost in half a second by rushing.

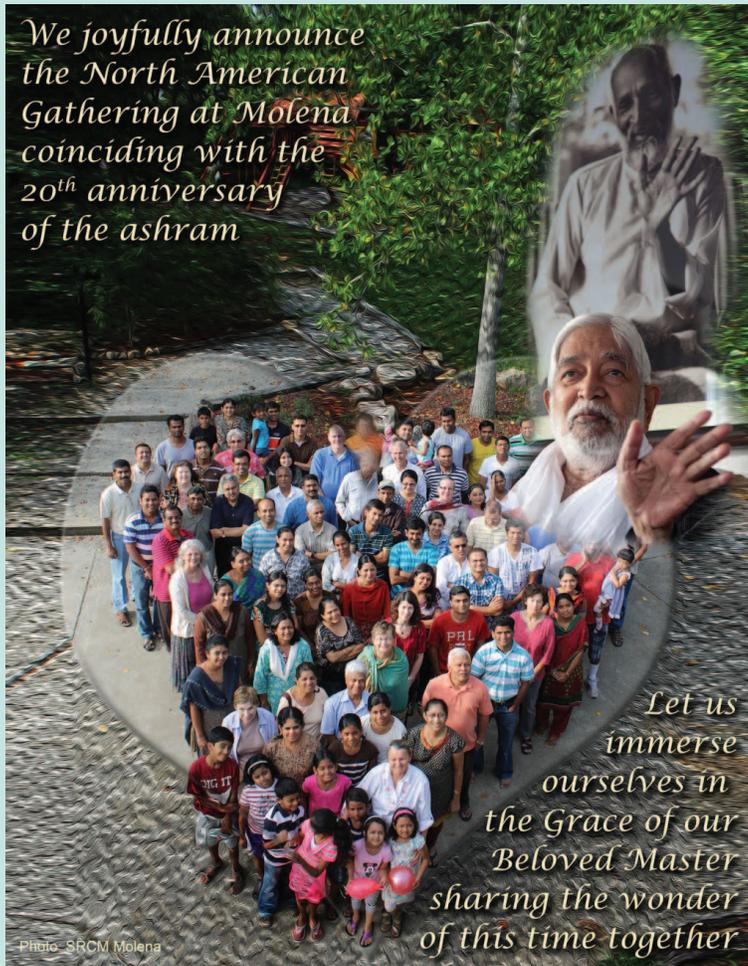
Babuji Maharaj said that once the meditation is over, try to savour your inner condition, try to be one with it, get absorbed in it, try to identify it. Identify it, because you should be able to recall it at will during the day. So how am I going to hold on to it? That should be our exercise. The moment the meditation is over, close your eyes again, go deep within yourself, study it, and see what it is like. Try to feel it; try to savour it; and when you are confident that you can hold onto it, that's when you get up. This is very, very important.





Featured Ashram: Molena Ashram

We joyfully announce the North American Gathering at Molena coinciding with the 20th anniversary of the ashram



Let us immerse ourselves in the Grace of our Beloved Master sharing the wonder of this time together

Photo: SRCM Molena

MOLENA ASHRAM SCHEDULE

Satsangh Times

- 7:00 a.m. Daily
- 7:30 p.m. Wednesday Evening
- 7:00 p.m. Saturday Evening
- 7:30 a.m. Sunday Morning

Monthly Programs

Grounding in the Practice

Next Module: *Meditation*
Saturday, September 15

Gatherings

UN Peace Day Commemoration

Friday, September 21, 6:00 p.m

North American Gathering at Molena

Friday, October 5 – Sunday, October 7

Thanksgiving Weekend

Friday, November 23 – Sunday, November 25

New Year's Weekend

Annual Teen Camp in June

Growth through Work

Teresa Valentine, Atlanta, GA

To me the ashram has always been a place of opportunity – to work. That’s not to say it offers an opportunity to simply occupy oneself. Ashram work has qualities that connect it closely to spiritual growth. First, such work is done with the heart and from the heart, not for reward or compensation. Most of it is done quietly and unnoticed, as more of an expression of gratitude and appreciation than a wish to be appreciated.

Second, it is done with a sense of ownership, yet without owning results. When Master said we may call only three things ours – the Master, the Mission and

the method – I believe it meant we must make them ours. What is ours, we look after, and we don’t look for results, because ashram work is always foundational. We build and keep building the foundation, not knowing what it will become, or what role it will fill in the future. That means we work with faith.

Finally, ashram work is collaborative. Whether working alone or with a large group, we have a common purpose, based in love. Through this we develop as a brotherhood and family. In my experience, then, and from what I’ve seen at Molena, ashram work is service that leads to spiritual growth.



Some Thoughts on the Molena Ashram

Pamela Turner, Charlotte, NC

I remember my first visit to the Molena Ashram in February 2007 to attend a seminar, “Service to Self”, led by Veronica and John Carter. It was my first time leaving my husband and children to do something for myself, and I was both excited and nervous. The simplicity of the wooded setting, bunk beds, folding chairs and tables and tents made me think of summer camp. Almost immediately, I knew that there was something special about this place. Only a few days’ time passed and yet my inner clock seemed to have jumped ahead by months or years. I hardly slept, taking the opportunity to meditate in the early morning silence. The quiet conversations, deep meditations and service work lovingly performed all revealed that we were visiting a special realm.

Since that first visit, the ride to the ashram is full of anticipation; the arrival, joyous, like a trip home after being away. Each meal, prepared with love, eaten in remembrance and gratitude, feeds the soul as well as the body. Even tasks like washing dishes or cleaning the bathroom have new meaning in an environment

of devotion. The brothers and sisters with whom I have shared volunteer tasks or conversations have become precious to me in a way that I have not frequently experienced elsewhere. I have grown and learned much from the interactions with others in this informal setting.

It is Master’s grace that he has given us this charged and separate environment to experience the possibility of living in remembrance, swimming in the sea of love. Babuji’s ideal of every home being an ashram slowly begins to dawn as I find small ways to apply the lessons learned in the ashram within my own home and workplace. The gift of the Molena Ashram is so much greater than a weekend retreat in nature. It is time at His feet, without the complications of everyday life, to soak in as much of the Divine as possible and then return to our material life with fresh eyes and a full heart. We will not all experience the ashram in exactly the same way, but the opportunity is provided for us to step away for a moment and be truly open to the manifestation of His grace in the gentle transformation of our own Selves.



New Caretakers at Molena Ashram

Tushar Ghoshal, Orlando, FL

When brother Chuck and sister Mary-Lynn Masi arrived at Molena to become the new caretakers of our ashram, we felt excitement and also a sigh of relief, for we all were aware of the huge responsibility they were assuming. Since then we have seen Chuck’s matchless,

hands-on efforts to maintain all aspects of the ashram, while Mary-Lynn has initiated daily satsangh and conducts on-going *Grounding in the Practice* programs, all the while attending to details and providing the necessary support for abhyasis present.

Over the Labor Day weekend, abhyasis volunteered to prepare the Molena Ashram for its 20th anniversary.



New Caretakers *(continued from p. 5)*

Groups took on numerous chores around the entire property including cleaning, weed whacking, lawn mowing and hedge trimming.

It is heartening to see brothers Rich, Indu and Koti, and sisters Ranjana, Teresa and Bani, along with many other dedicated volunteers, working closely with our new caretakers to bring renewed enthusiasm to the ashram. Much is accomplished when visiting volunteers work together, but nevertheless, on our way home, we recognize the enormous work we leave behind for our caretakers, who inspire a renewed zeal to serve with commitment, bringing positive change to Molena.



Teen and Youth Camp 2012 Summary

Shelly Gould Burgess, Coordinator

From June 24th-30th, 32 young people aged 13-21 traveled from all corners of the U.S. to attend the Second Annual North American Teen and Youth Retreat Camp at the Molena Ashram. The theme of this year's camp was "Love" as written at the end of so many of our Master's correspondences. The main purpose of the camp program is to give young people the opportunity to explore their spiritual identities and to take ownership of their spiritual lives. Towards that end, team-building exercises and games aimed at developing trust and friendship were melded with ever more in-depth spiritual discussions and educational sessions. Campers explored the various conceptualizations of love, looking at it from multiple perspectives and diving into the relationship between love and the spiritual life. A panel of experienced abhyasis served as mentors and

answered questions about Sahaj Marg, while sharing their experiences.

Brother Sanjay Sehgal visited the campers to discuss the relationship with the Master. Campers also participated in an international conference call featuring youth from countries across Central and South America, as well as Europe. Brothers Bill Waycott and Santosh Khanjee served as keynote speakers on the conference call, gifting the campers with wonderful insights. As the days passed, love and friendship wove ever-stronger bonds between the campers as they talked, played games, created art and shared their talents in a hilarious talent show. On the last day it was hard for everyone to say goodbye to each other as so much love and affection had grown in their hearts. With excitement and joy we look forward to next year's camp, tentatively scheduled for June 23-29, 2013 in Molena.



Molena Ashram, Teen Camp

Personal Reflections

Asa Royal, St. Louis, MO

Reflecting back upon camp, my foremost memory is that of the loving relationships between all the people at the ashram. Preceding my camp experience, I would never have imagined anything like that. Everyone, including myself, came to camp full of preconceptions. Before I went, I was utterly convinced that I was in for the most boring week of my life, and that my week would be spent listening to crazy people trying to convince me of their even crazier ideas.

Upon arrival at camp, I found other teenagers just like myself – spiritually immature and ignorant of anything beyond organized religion. Fortunately, mentors, who volunteered their time, were always ready and willing to explain anything we didn't understand. Over the course of the week, as I attended learning sessions, I slowly came to increase my understanding of Sahaj Marg.

Our theme for camp this year was "Love". During the week, my definition of love, and my thoughts upon its interaction in our world, completely changed. It

was at that point that I finally understood something important – Sahaj Marg is about love: love for oneself, love for the Master, love for the world and love for each and every person in our world.

This sudden enlightenment completely changed how I thought about almost everything. No longer could I stick with thinking that everyone was completely an individual, and could live out on his or her own tangent. I understood, in the words of one of our mentors, that each and every one of us is like a spoke of a bicycle wheel. The wheel hub of love connects us all. The force of that love keeps us moving and together.

I don't mean to overshadow the rest of what happened at camp by focusing on lessons I have learned. Every day, all of us teens hung out playing sports, visiting beaches and generally having an amazing time. My stay at camp was one the greatest experiences of my life, and I urge every teen to try it out.

To all of the mentors, camp directors, volunteers and everyone who made camp possible: A profound "thank you" for everything.



Personal Reflections

Rasha Baig, Detroit, MI

This year was my second time at the North American Teen Camp and I had a completely different, but just as enriching, experience as the year before. The theme this year was "Love" – "Love, period", when you said it out loud. I learned a lot about myself, and my love for others, in the week we spent at the Molena Ashram.

One of the best parts for me was on the last night, when we sat in one big circle around a makeshift campfire. We passed around a candle and shared our thoughts about camp. While I sat there thinking, I looked around at all the faces in the circle. I saw many different faces, kids from all over North America who were all joined by one thing. I thought, "Isn't it amazing what we all share with each other?" We are all connected by Master's love. Not only that, we all made such personal connections with one another in the space of about six days. I thought that it was amazing that a group of kids could share something so strong.

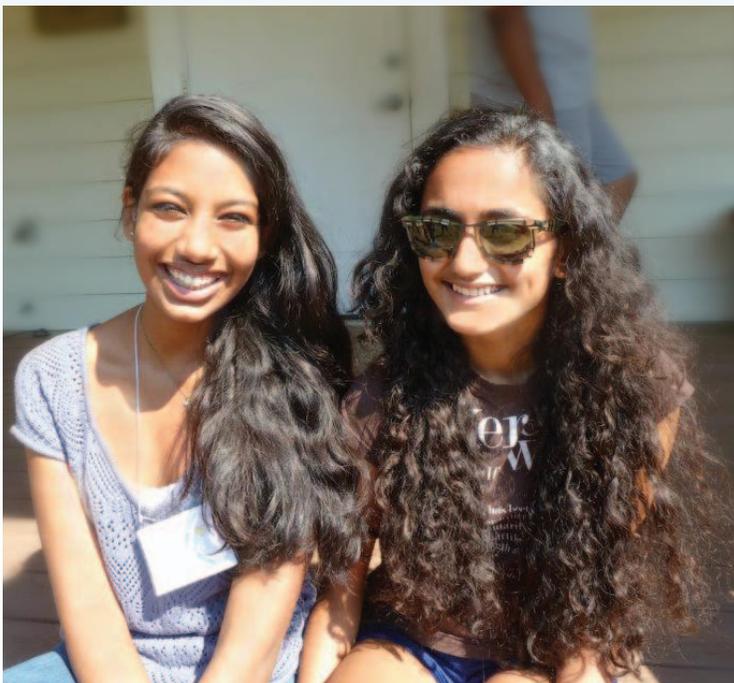
Molena Ashram, Teen Camp

Personal Reflections

Anjali Sindhuvalli, Memphis, TN

The teen camp at the Molena Ashram was an amazing experience during which I really changed as a person. I'm sure I'm not the only one who feels that way. I loved the fact that I didn't go there just because I was tagging along with my parents. I went to experience my *own* spiritual growth and participate in the heartwarming sessions that expanded my knowledge of love. Also, I can't describe how much love I could simply feel in the atmosphere. Being there together, with more than 30 other teens and youth, I felt like a real family surrounded me. I even had many open discussions with others about spirituality outside of the regular sessions! Just knowing that there are other people my age whom I can talk to felt wonderful. Teen camp was a perfect balance of fun and spiritual growth.

The kitchen staff, mentors and coordinators were fantastic. Having experienced people around was definitely a huge perk. I'll never forget Brian Uncle's beautiful stories or Tracie Aunty's words of wisdom. This camp experience could not have been complete without the people who made it possible. This has been the highlight of my summer, and I'll never forget it. Thank you for giving me this wonderful opportunity.



Personal Reflections

Niveditha Chalam, San Jose, CA

My parents started their journey in Sahaj Marg when I was 5 years old. While growing up, I was aware that my parents meditated. I didn't really understand why or how – they just sat there and closed their eyes. However, I did know to keep quiet when they did. I mumbled out a prayer at 9 o'clock every night without knowing what I was saying or what it meant. I had always assumed that I too would start meditating, when I was eligible to enter the Mission.

However, over the past couple of years, I started questioning my beliefs. Is there a God? If meditation is a path to God or the divine Self, and if I do not believe in such a God or Self, do I still have to meditate? I guess I didn't really understand the concept, or grasp the full meaning behind the two simple words, *Sahaj Marg*.

So, when I learned of the Teen Camp being held in Georgia, I was unsure about going. I didn't really expect much of it. I actually had expected something like 9 hours of meditation, or seminars on how to meditate. My parents urged me to go, and curiosity took over.

Returning from the camp, my mind is truly blown from my experience there. It was hot; it was sweaty; it was dirty; but I had fun! It was not at all what I had expected. I really truly enjoyed attending the camp and learning so much from the mentors, the campers, and even myself. By the end of the camp, a huge number of my questions – questions I didn't even know I had – were answered. It's safe to say that I am really looking forward to meditation and learning the "Simple Path" to life and love.





Molena Ashram, Teen Camp

Announcing Community Service Recognition for Teens

Many colleges and scholarship programs favor teens who've done community service, and many high schools offer graduation honors for students who've done volunteer work. With this in mind, SRCM North America is now offering a community service certificate for teens performing volunteer work in Mission settings. To participate in the program:

- 1.) Email Shelly at sgb9000@gmail.com and give the teen's name and graduating year.
- 2.) When the teen completes community service hours email Shelly with the number of hours, the task done, and the name of the person who supervised the service. She will keep track of the hours for you.

When the teen is graduating or applying for college scholarships, please contact Shelly, who will mail you a certificate. Please request a certificate only when the final documentation is needed.



New Ashrams

Fremont Ashram Opening – August 12, 2012 Gnyan Ramakrishna, Fremont Center

Our ashram in Fremont, California, which Master said would fill a “long felt need”, came to fruition very simply and naturally about two years after the purchase of the bowling alley. His guidance and attention to detail was present directly and through wondrous means throughout the period of the transforming renovation. From the beginning, we hoped that in some mysterious way this activity would attract Master to bless the occasion by his presence. Yet His ways are always wondrous.

Abhyasis have been waiting for this center of light, working silently in the background, some for over a decade. Over the past five years local abhyasis have organized workshops, concerts and other activities that have helped us come together for our common purpose. Abhyasis also had the opportunity to participate in the renovations, along with the contractor.

While pushing hard towards inauguration, dates slipped from April 20th to July 24th, 2012, when we were almost ready, with hiccups on some important inspection items. On August 9th, in the most



Fremont Ashram Opening *(continued from p.9)*

unexpected fashion, the inspector provided his approval for occupancy, satisfied with the modifications made. The following Sunday, August 12, 2012, which coincided this year with Master’s lunar birthday, the first satsangh was held. At a personal level, in this first moment it felt like Master was telling us that the beginning is sacred, like the birth of a baby with its implicit beauty and His presence, which was manifested in the subtlest manner in all our hearts.

We are grateful to Master for providing us a home where we can work upon ourselves towards the goal. By our using our ashram, the premises will become a point of attraction for all seekers of spirituality.



Fremont Ashram – Information and Thoughts

Grish Kulkarni

If there is such a thing as a spiritual yatra for a building, the structure at 585 Mowry Avenue, Fremont, CA, commenced its yatra in the middle of September 2009. Following a path much like our own journey in Sahaj Marg, with a lot of ups and downs but undoubtedly progressing, a new center of light materialized on the auspicious day of August 12, 2012, and a beacon shone forth on the west coast of North America, to provide a much needed place to call *home* for all the aspirants of Sahaj Marg.

The West Coast Ashram, or the Fremont Ashram as it is referred to, is a large, 35,000 sq. ft. building housing an 8,000 sq. ft. meditation hall, a full-fledged kitchen and dining area, several large area halls to host Mission activities, and a self-contained living suite reserved for Master. The property also provides up to 200 parking spaces. The ashram, in the heart of the Mission district of the city of Fremont, CA, is easily accessible from both the San Jose and San Francisco international airports and is within a short distance from the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) station in Fremont.

Having such a large facility in the center of an urban area is a blessing in itself; and as we experience the blessed atmosphere in the ashram, we cannot but feel the wonder that is our beloved Master himself. Akin to what has been experienced in the neighboring areas of other ashrams worldwide, the area around the West Coast Ashram also seems to be reenergized. It is hoped that the facility will provide the catalytic elements for further growth of the Mission in North America.

In recognition of this year being the 20th anniversary of the first ashram in the USA – Molena Ashram – national gatherings are planned at both the Molena Ashram and the West Coast Ashram October 5–7, 2012. Preparations are in full swing with a large number of abhyasis expected at both of these ashrams. So many of the recent *Whispers* messages speak of unity in the Sahaj Marg family that we can hardly wait to participate and experience the togetherness in these gatherings that are sure to take us to untold heights.



Fremont Ashram *(continued)*

Visit to the Fremont Ashram

Uday Kumar, Jersey City, NJ

In the first week of September, I traveled to San Jose for work and was able to attend Wednesday evening satsangh. I was very eager to see all the changes since my last visit, and to thank Master for the wonderful gift of our ashram.

Arriving an hour early at this perfect oasis near commercial venues and thruways, I had the opportunity to spend some time with brothers and sisters and tour the ashram. It was a foggy afternoon with the sun breaking out intermittently through the clouds. The facilities and infrastructure are very impressive, with a lot of room to accommodate growth. There is a view of the golden hills on the horizon, huge eucalyptus trees around the building, and blooming rose plants all over the property. I was lucky to be graced by a rainbow over the hills, a truly picturesque sight.

During satsangh, I was moved with gratitude and motivation to make the most of the possibilities these centers of light offer us, in terms of opportunity, progress and love.

Monroe Ashram Update

AMC Team, Monroe, New Jersey

On August 16, 2012, the Monroe Ashram received its occupancy permit from the Township. The certification process included detailed, rigorous inspections by building, plumbing and electrical inspectors, to ensure that the different codes for safety and compliance were adhered to.

Over the last couple of years, hundreds of volunteers have been involved in different tasks that have helped us in reaching this beginning point. Now that we have the permit, we all have the opportunity to use this center of light for our *shreyas* (volunteer service) and for the benefit of all our brothers and sisters.

As soon as news of the occupancy permit was received, a gathering was organized on August 18th. Abhyasis from nearby centers gathered there for the day to benefit from the environment and also participate in discussions on the use of the ashram.

All abhyasis are invited to drop by the ashram for sittings and volunteer activities.

SPURS

SPURS

Leslie Childs, Austin, TX

Those who have visited SPURS Retreat in Austin, Texas, know that a party of peacocks, or peafowl, reside there. One won't be greeted by the barking of a dog, but instead, the call of these beautiful birds that are native to India and Burma. The cultural significance of the peacock varies throughout the world. In Hinduism, the peacock is associated with Saraswati, a deity representing benevolence, patience, kindness, compassion and knowledge. When SPURS was founded, and there was talk of canine company, it was Chariji who requested India's national bird.

In this picture, you will see a white peahen sitting on her nest of eggs. She has selected the white marble bust of Babuji for her nesting site, as if he might protect her. However, hatching the eggs is not always a success

at SPURS, as the beautiful Texas countryside is also home to predators, such as coyotes, foxes, snakes and raccoons.





Sunderland Ashram

Wednesday Night *Whispers* at Sunderland

Diane Suller, Greenfield, MA

We have organized reading groups throughout the last 16 years at our ashram in Sunderland. Often, before Wednesday night satsangh, we have taken turns reading from a given book, and if the desire to discuss a certain paragraph arises, the person reading will stop. We have found that reading before satsangh prepares us to receive and absorb the sitting. The most recent group that was formed decided to silently read messages from *Whispers from the Brighter World* and

reflect on the meaning to ourselves. One person chooses a *Whispers* message and makes copies to leave on the table. Participants naturally sit in a circle to read silently. When it is time to break for satsangh and take another seat, it all seems part of the flow. It is not necessary to know how many people are coming or to make a commitment, as long as the person bringing the *Whispers message* shows up. This is a new way to silently read together and follow Master's wishes about how we use these beloved and treasured messages from the brighter world.

Beavercreek Ashram

Facilitator Training

Kirsten Santos, Atlanta, GA

Over the September 7 – 9 weekend, my husband and I participated in the Facilitator Training Program organized at the Beavercreek Ashram. We were so happy to have this opportunity, and we wish to thank the many brothers and sisters who contributed in so many ways to this training – from its creation to its implementation.

The program provided a concise yet in-depth opportunity for each participant to prepare and participate in a program of “Deepening our Practice and the Link with the Master” so that each of us can become a facilitator of workshop programs on these topics for abhyasis. Experienced facilitators guided trainees through a series of topic-related modules that included individual reflection, diary writing and sharing in pairs and small groups, using materials that were carefully developed for the purpose. An environment of remembrance and joy was created so naturally by all of us working together and taking individual responsibility for the atmosphere.

Everyone that I spoke with during and after the program acknowledged that in some way they had a deeper experience of love through this shared endeavor. It was said so beautifully by one brother when he wrote, “I had a completely different dimension of experience with Master by being with you all.” I can't help feeling

that this makes Master happy.

For me, it seemed that the spirit of this program was a continuation of the workshops held in India during the North American gathering – a deep and focused attention on the cultivation of One World, One Family. We look forward to participating with abhyasis in programs that support each individual's effort in deepening their spiritual practice and the link with the Master.

Events

Camp Pringle Weekend

Lou-Anne Bryant and Jerry Whalley, Seattle, WA

Local abhyasis look forward to our Camp Pringle gathering every year, knowing they will feel renewed by the weekend. It is as if the grounds, the lake and the encircling forest retain the transmission that pours over us ever year at every satsangh and in each moment.

Jerry Whalley explains: What can I say about this weekend's condition? It's all about losing yourself and its attributes – that is, your stuff, your Facebook profile and your assumptions – while in a blessed state of cheerful acceptance. Many abhyasis commented about losing this or that, or finding themselves in a situation



Events, Camp Pringle Weekend (cont. from p. 12)

where their assumptions were turned around. For example, we lost our wallets on the way to the ferry; we left them at the camp in a backpack! And yet, there they were, returned by Elaine Rzemieniak, when she joined us waiting for the ferry. The cheerful acceptance was reflected in this old saying, "It'll all be wonderful in the end; and if it's not wonderful, it's not the end."



San Luis Obispo Center, Lake Lopez, Labor Day Weekend
From the Poem, *Retreat with the Self*, Hemasri Chava, San Jose, CA



Hearts united. Language became no barrier, accepting each other to the fullest.



The camp site and meditation place are already charged and waiting for us to have a wonderful gathering.



Dawn is in the sky and it dawned with fog lifting up from the lake.



Blankets of fog, sunlight is merging and melting into dew.



July 24th Gatherings

Beavercreek Ashram Celebration

Julie Gallagher, Dayton, OH

Echoes apologizes for the accidental omission of this article from the Worldwide Echoes published immediately following the Tiruppur Celebrations of Master's Birth Anniversary.

Over 160 abhyasis, many bringing their children, attended the Beavercreek gathering arriving from Iowa, West Virginia, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri and Maryland. After the first two days of extreme heat, on Master's birthday, dramatic thunder-showers brought blessed relief.

Sunday, July 22nd, was designated as a preparation day for the celebration. Abhyasis from the Cleveland center planned the program, and for the preparation day they selected readings from *Whispers* on the importance of a bhandara.

We were reminded that Babuji said when 100 abhyasis gather together to meditate, the effect is magnified 1,000 or more times. One brother said that over the last 40 years it has been his experience that each celebration is better than the one before.

The readings emphasized the divine atmosphere that prevails at a bhandara, like "bathing in the most fragrant and cool waters of a lake," or like "a bliss blanket spread over the environment." In between the readings, several abhyasis spoke about deep experiences at bhandaras.

The three daily satsanghs were augmented with programs featuring videos, sharings, and a slide show of photos from Master's visits to the U.S. On the evening of the 24th, we were treated to a prayer dance in which 6 dancers dressed in yellow used movement as prayer to send healing energy to Master, to abhyasis who were ill, and to the world. Afterward, the children sang a special song for Master. We all left feeling this celebration had been "the best one yet."



Beavercreek Ashram, July 24th Celebration



Molena Ashram, July 24th Celebration



Seattle Gathering, July 24th Celebration



Sunderland Gathering, July 24th Celebration



July 24th Gatherings (continued from p. 14)



Texas Gathering, July 24th Celebration



Toronto Gathering, July 24th Celebration



Vancouver Gathering, July 24th Celebration

**Grounding in the Practice – Workshop
Richmond, VA, June 10, 2012**

A workshop on “Diary Writing and Why Spirituality” was conducted at the Natural Path Meditation Center in Richmond, VA, June 10, 2012. Brother Atul Patel facilitated the morning session on “Diary Writing” while brother Balaji Gopalan facilitated the evening session on “Why Spirituality?” benefitting a total of 14 participants. The main elements of the workshop were group discussions on excellent material, presentations that totally engrossed the participants, time for adjustment between the sessions using Babuji’s adjustment reference, and satsanghs in the morning and evening. As Chariji often mentions, “Good things must be repeated.” We would like to thank Master again and again for providing us with these soul-enriching workshops and with dedicated ashrams/centers in which to live the experience.

New Publication Releases

Books

English Book – *Principles of Sahaj Marg, Volume 15*

English Book – *Pursuit of the Inner Way*
(Reprint of *PSM*, Volume 2)

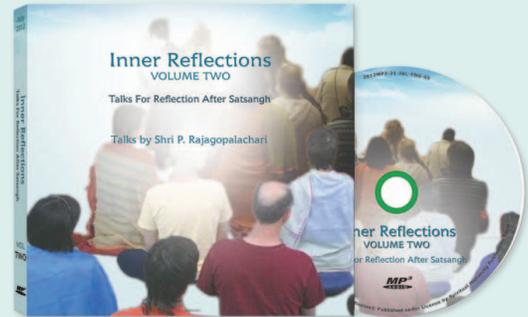
English Book – *Timothee’s Comic Book*

English Book– *Spiritual Journal*
(Hardbound Diary)

English Book – *Commentary on the Ten Maxims*

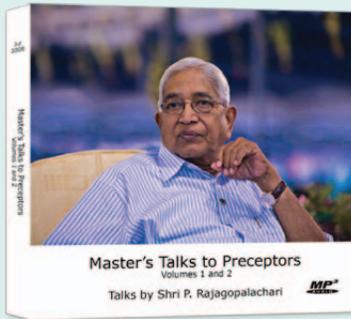
English MP3

Inner Reflections, Volume 2



English Mp3

Master’s Talk to Prefects, Volumes 1 and 2
(Set of 2)



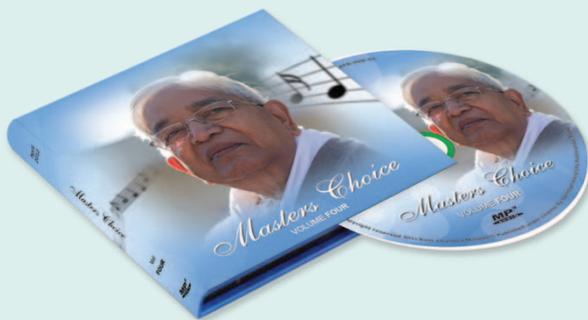
English DVD (NTSC)

Sahaj Marg Meanderings (Set of 3)



English Mp3

Master’s Choice, Volume 4



English DVD

The Eternal Power of Love, Volume 1
(Set of 2)





Service

Teen Camp Volunteer

Shanthi Venkat, Camp Writing

During the last week of June, I had the opportunity to be part of the kitchen volunteers at the now-annual youth seminar that took place in Molena. My daughter and I arrived on the Saturday before the camp started. Thus began our week-long cooking expedition for 34 teens, young adults and a handful of volunteers. Needless to say, the weather in Molena in June was sweltering, especially with the kitchen ovens running 8 hours a day, yet we had a sister who was passionately kneading cookie and bread dough, and other sisters washing, chopping and cleaning the vegetables. After the first day we realized that not only did we have a bunch of kids who were not only hungry, but who also actually liked what we were cooking, were appreciative at every meal, and were looking forward to the next.

I felt so comfortable with the rest of the volunteers that I had the feeling that I had known them all for a very long time, that I had been there in that kitchen and had done that work before. The other volunteers confirmed similar sentiments. At the end of the week we sat down to write a report to the ashram management committee, but we could not separate the memory of one meal from the next. We were dazed. We realized that this was all planned ahead, on our behalf, by a higher power. The experience was special and unique – one I will cherish for a very long time.

New Prefects

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