

# Point of Light

Quarterly Newsletter of the Molena Retreat Center, USA



**Molena Newsletter, No. 2007.02**  
**Thursday, April 5, 2007**

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**1. Spring/Summer schedule of events** ▲

The Meditation Center is becoming increasingly busier, with activities and events organized regularly. The numbers of abhyasis participating in the full weekend schedule is increasing; several people regularly enjoy the elevated atmosphere of the ashram, attending two satsanghs and working and spending time with the brothers and sisters, from Saturday evenings until Sunday afternoons.

The following 4-month schedule of ashram events includes three gatherings, one Extended Sunday program and several ashram clean-up/work project weekends. Further descriptions of events are provided in articles below.

**Gatherings**

- April 28-30: Rev. Babuji's Birth Anniversary
- May 26-28: Memorial Day Weekend/Family Gathering
- July 21-24: Rev. Chariji's Birth Anniversary

**Extended Sunday Programs**

- June 3, "The Living Master"

**Ashram projects/ cleanup weekends**

- April 14-15, May 19-20, June 16-17, July 14-15

**2. Rev. Babuji's birth anniversary 2007** ▲

A special program is planned for the 3-day celebration of Rev. Babuji's 108th birth anniversary. The program will begin Saturday

*"It is the goal of the big gatherings, enabling [our brothers] to become aware of their unity on the spiritual level, which is essential. A unique and same heart unites them, surpassing borders. A profound mystical impulse makes this wonder happen: the sacred union of souls going in the same direction."*

– Rev. Babuji, *Whispers from the Brighter World*, pp . 634.

■ **ASHRAM WEB SITE**

[Click here](#) to go to the Molena Ashram Web site.

■ **WEEKEND SCHEDULE**

7:30 PM Saturday Satsangh  
 10:30 AM Sunday Satsangh

■ **ASHRAM OCCUPANCY RULES**

1. Possession of alcoholic beverages, tobacco and drugs in any form is **TOTALLY** prohibited.
2. Possession of any lethal weapons including knives with blades longer than 6" is banned within the ashram campus.
3. Visitors must have the prior permission of the management if any stay on the premises is involved. Overnight visitors not allowed.
4. No pets or other animals should be brought into the ashram campus.

■ **EXTENDED ASHRAM VISITS**

The Molena Ashram is open to all abhyasis for personal retreat time dedicated to spiritual practice. For information and permission forms for ashram visits lasting more than a weekend, [click here](#). Scroll down to "Downloadable forms."

■ **NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK**

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afternoon, April 28th, and conclude after a 3 p.m. Satsangh on Monday, April 30th, the actual anniversary date. The theme is designed to guide the aspirant in understanding the inner connection with the Master, while maintaining a life focused on brotherhood and balance. While it is not required that the abhyasi attend every session of the 3-day program, it is designed develop as a course of successive workshops, each building on the previous one.

The program will be conducted in several of the central gathering locations throughout the United States during this auspicious celebration. Registration is available through the following link on the SRCM website:

<http://www.srcm.org/srcminfo/servlet/CenterTree?ViewSeminarInfo=1&NodeId=210>

**Please register soon to help organizers with planning.**

### **3. Report on Rev. Lalaji's birth anniversary 2007** ▲

Against the cold, damp, early-dark conditions that often mark this wintry event, the center of light, brotherhood and divine love shone soft and bright during the celebration of beloved Rev. Lalaji's birth anniversary on Friday, February 2nd. Approximately 200 brothers and sisters enjoyed a day-long program consisting almost completely of silent reflection. The program theme was "The Language of God." Passages about inner spiritual silence from the Master's writings were made available throughout the campus, and the meditation tent became a haven of stillness and quiet for all to meditate, write and reflect. Many abhyasis expressed their appreciation of the unique program in written feedback such as the following:

"I hope the theme 'The Language of God' becomes the beginning of our natural being during these events."

"The silence in the meditation hall provided an excellent opportunity for inner reflections, reading mission literature and being in the condition of meditation."

"The outside world is noisy enough and here, in the ashram, I had a great experience to go deeper inside, think about my practice, get closer to my inner light, and be with my Master."

Following the day of quiet celebration, a 2-day inspiring seminar on Service to Self rounded out a joyful time, until illuminated hearts lifted the winter gray on Buzzard Mountain.

### **4. First Sundays: extended programs** ▲

The Extended Programs of the first Sunday of each month have become well presented seminars that have generated a lot of interest in abhyasis. Volunteers are putting thoughtful research into creating engaging presentations on thought-provoking

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themes. The March theme, "The Importance of the Ego in Spirituality," involved discussion, a slide show and a skit, and a second presentation of it was requested by abhyasis who could not attend the first one. The April theme was the 8th Maxim, and topics discussed included the effectiveness of eating in constant divine thought, what real Prasad is, the proper attitude toward food, and the concept of purity in food.

Program themes for the next few months include "The Living Master" and "Ambition vs. Aspiration."

If you are interested in organizing or presenting an Extended Sunday program, contact Sr. Kadambari Sai at [kadambarisai@hotmail.com](mailto:kadambarisai@hotmail.com).

### 5. Third Sundays: projects and cleanup

Every third weekend of the month is set aside for clean-up and maintenance projects. During the weekend of April 14-15, we will focus on preparing the ashram for the celebration of Rev. Babuji's Birth Anniversary at the end of the month. Caretaker Peter Marshall is hoping to make the ashram as orderly and beautiful as possible for this holy day. **In fact, we are planning to set aside the 4th Sunday, April 22, as a second clean-up event,** in order to bring the ashram to its full, gleaming potential.

A task list will be posted and updated on each weekend (see #2 below), and Br. Peter will have materials and tools ready for anyone who can come and spend a few hours wielding a paint brush or getting dirt under their nails. The following is a list of some top-priority projects. Please consider rolling up your sleeves and joining in!

1. **Paint the back porch and wheelchair ramp** : Peter estimates that a good-size crew can finish the job in one afternoon.
2. **Indoor clean-up tasks** : Br. Niranjan Jonnala has prepared a list of tasks. Please [click here](#) to view it, it will be posted at the ashram on both weekends also. Just show up and choose a task you feel capable of doing; work includes kitchen, rest room, dining hall and dorm clean-up and preparation.
3. **Landscaping** : Peter has a few landscaping projects lined up. Please contact him at [peterbette@aol.com](mailto:peterbette@aol.com) or call him at 770-884-9690.

### 6. Special family gathering Memorial Day weekend

A weekend gathering focused on the entire family is planned for the Memorial Day weekend at the end of May. There will be activities for all ages. This is the first time a gathering focused on the family will take place at Molena, and help with ideas and planning is very welcome. If you would like to contribute your time or be involved in planning, contact the Ashram Management

Committee at [molena@srcm.org](mailto:molena@srcm.org) .

### 7. Program for child care

At the Molena Ashram we have childcare activities during Sunday Satsanghs. These activities are guided primarily by childcare coordinators and implemented by parents and volunteers in charge of each session. Recently parents and childcare coordinators held a meeting to discuss the childcare program and came up a set of guidelines. [Click here](#) to view the complete set of guidelines. For information, contact Br. Sai Subramanian at [sais\\_molena@yahoo.com](mailto:sais_molena@yahoo.com) .

### 8. Parking and safety at the ashram

The paved area between the dining hall and the bookstore **must be kept clear of cars at all times** . Parking there is unsafe and illegal. It poses a danger of obstructing emergency vehicles that may be crucially needed at any time. This is the most essential parking regulation at the ashram because it is relevant to all visitors. The area is to be used only when necessary to drop off or pick up people or supplies. Drivers should be careful not to use the handicap parking space or to block the wheelchair access ramp at any time. The handicap parking space is available only for vehicles displaying the appropriate credentials, and only at times other than large gatherings. During large gatherings, a parking coordinator is always available to facilitate the convenient movement of cars and people.

Please be mindful of keeping the meditation center safe and accessible. [Click here](#) to read through the complete list of parking regulations.

*"A consecrated ashram is like a flame, a point of light lighting up the world..."* - Rev. Babuji, Whispers, pp. 324

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