

Point of Light

Quarterly Newsletter of the Molena Retreat Center, USA



Molena Newsletter, No. 2007.03
Wednesday, July 11, 2007


In this issue:


1. [Report on Rev. Babuji's birth anniversary 2007 celebrations](#)
2. [SRCM Workshop in Atlanta](#)
3. [Molena Ashram Celebration of Rev. Chariji's 80th Birth Anniversary](#)
4. [Calendar of Ashram Events for Next Quarter](#)
5. [Work Projects, Cleanup Days](#)
6. [15th Anniversary of Ashram Dedication](#)

1. Report on Rev. Babuji's birth anniversary 2007 celebrations

Celebrations are marked by preparations, registrations, programs and association with brothers and sisters. But real celebration awakens in the individual heart, emanates in waves of joy and merges with other hearts in a song of harmony and Love, which permeates the occasion with happiness. Such was the Celebration of Rev.

Babuji's birth anniversary on April 28-30, 2007 at Molena Ashram. Even the colors of nature shimmered in a brilliant wash of spring sunlight throughout the ashram each day from glistening morning to peaceful evening.


 Babuji's birth anniversary celebrations in Molena 2007

 Babuji's birth anniversary celebrations in Molena 2007

The program had been prepared by a group of abhyasis from various centers throughout the country and was followed concurrently in celebrations throughout the country. It was minimal in content and allowed plenty of time for guided reflection on the concepts of unity, joy, brotherhood, love and others. It was designed to be less of an

intellectual exercise and more of a deepening of the experience of the Divine Presence within us which evokes those feelings.

Saturday evening was set aside to be a special family time, with a surprise movie with popcorn. Children performed well-prepared traditional dances during the children's program.

 Babuji's birth anniversary celebrations in Molena 2007

"In this place, such places as this, which claim a spiritual function, there must be, above all, humanity only, without any distinguishing factors."

– Rev. Chariji, Heart to Heart, v. 5.

■ 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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2. SRCM Workshop in Atlanta

 Atlanta workshop

The Atlanta Center organized a satsangh at The Arts Institute of Atlanta on June 9th to facilitate all abhyasis of the greater Atlanta region to come together. The morning satsangh was followed by a program titled "Meditation for Human Integration". Through slides, short readings and a creative skit, the

program offered abhyasis a chance to contemplate the meaning of human integration in the context of tolerance and brotherhood and the role our sadhana plays in infusing these qualities into our daily lives. After the program, a picnic lunch was held at a nearby park, where the children had been playing during the satsangh and program.

3. Molena Ashram Celebration of Rev. Chariji's 80th Birth Anniversary

Plans are underway for the Molena celebration of Master's 80th birth anniversary, which will take place from Sunday, July 22nd to Tuesday, July 24th. Abyhasis are expected from several regional states as well as the Atlanta area to attend this auspicious gathering.

Satsangh schedule for the celebration :

Sunday: 10:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Monday: 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Contact Sr. Roseanne at rosie@urawinr.com or Br. Nori at venkata.nori@gmail.com to help with planning and preparation.

Pre-registration is requested so that the organizers will know whether or not a tent will be needed and what kind of food supplies will be in order. Please register at

<http://www.srcm.org/registration/index.jsp>

4. Calendar of Ashram Events for Next Quarter

July 22 – 24: Rev. Chariji's 80th Birth Anniversary Celebration

August 5: Extended Sunday Program

September 1-3: Memorial Day Weekend gathering

October 5-7: Molena Ashram 15th anniversary Regional Gathering ([see below](#))

October 27-29: Annual Fall Festival Weekend

5. Work Projects, Cleanup Days

Painting project : A small group of brothers have been painting the railings and deck of the access ramp leading from the front driveway area to the back of the kitchen. The AMC organized the project, which will continue on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings for the first few weekends of July. It is important to paint the structure periodically to maintain the strength of the wood and thereby its safety. Contact Br. Niranjana (njonnala@yahoo.com) to help out, or just join in if you are there during those times.

Cleanup days : July 15 will be a special cleanup day in preparation for the Molena celebration of Master's birth anniversary. Work has already been done in the upstairs dorms; several indoor and outdoor projects remain. Other cleanup days this quarter will be August 19, September 16 and October 21.

6. 15th Anniversary of Ashram Dedication

On October 2, 1992, Master inaugurated the Molena Ashram, dedicating it to his beloved Master, Babuji. In his talk to the assembled abhyasis and local civic leaders, Master said that an ashram is to be primarily a "place of rest," mentally, physically and spiritually, and secondly an environment for meditation, contemplation and spiritual growth. This October, we will celebrate 15 years of the Molena Ashram providing us a place of rest in our hurried lives and a point of light in our spiritual existence.

A gathering will be held on the first weekend of October to celebrate the anniversary, and invitations will be sent out to all centers. The October edition of this newsletter will celebrate the event with special articles about the early days of the ashram and remembrances of the inauguration day. Just as birth anniversaries are times to truly remember the Masters, this anniversary should serve as a moment to remember how deeply grateful and happy we are to have this ashram to come home to at any time.

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

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