

**November At Meherana**  
by Kebi Boose

November 13<sup>th</sup> 2004 dawned bright and sunny for the board meeting after what had been a rainy week. During the board meeting (did you know, anyone may attend?), those in attendance heard about the ambitious plans for spring 2005 = finishing Baba's Cabin and erecting tent cabins as well as starting the foundation for the support building for the cabins - a place with toilets, showers and also an area for communal dining and kitchen. What is exciting is that Chris Pearson is generously setting aside his general contracting and is committing to working fulltime at Meherana to start this development.

**Plans for Baba's Cabin** include finishing the ceiling, installing the Farsi flooring (brought from India - the same type of stone flooring as found in Beloved Baba's Tomb-Shrine), and putting on doors to keep out the weather, as well as roofing on the verandah.

The **tent cabins** sound really exciting and are an affordable way to get some housing for those wishing to have a true bed to sleep in vs. sleeping on the ground in a regular tent. The tent cabins will be purchased from the same company that makes the cabins in Yosemite and each will sleep 4 people in two bunk beds. There will be a real floor as well as actual windows and doors plus a small deck off the front.

After the meeting, we all took an hour's walk around the property looking at proposed building sites - there is a **new site planned for the meeting pandal** with a real roof that will be more accessible and closer to the food area than down the steep drive to the current one by the creek. Plus, there will also be a lovely path through the grass and trees down to Baba's Cabin from this new meeting area. It is doubtful if the new meeting area will be done by the Spring Sahavas but most probably the area will be graded and available for all to see. When the bulldozer is brought in for grading the site for the tent cabins in the upper meadow, this will also be the opportunity for grading regular tent sites so that there are more level (hooray!) campsites for those attendees who like to camp as well as grade the site for the new meeting area.

The site for the planned initial 4 tent cabins is a lovely one on a point of land jutting out to the east from the meadow. These sites will offer lovely vistas of the surrounding hills and look to be the perfect spot for staying during the Sahavas. **The goal is to have two tent cabins finished by the time of the Spring Sahavas** with Bhau over Memorial Day weekend 2005.

We also walked more of the property to see the spot that was "witched" by Peter Nordeen (and collaborated by a local water diviner) for a new well above the camping meadow and where a large storage tank would be located so that there would be good gravity feed for the water downhill into the bathing / toilet / kitchen / dining areas near the tent cabins.

As we walked, all of us couldn't help but remark on how lovely the weather was and how green everything looked with the recent rainfall. The creek was especially lovely with lots of water running in it. The rain was exciting in that already 11" have been received which represents a third of the annual rainfall and the rainy season has just begun. After several drier years, it would be really great to have a good rainfall year in which to increase the ground water table.

The board is anxious to get started on facilities that will allow for more frequent, overnight visitors than the few Sahavas Programs currently afford and through past donations and the Bhau Roast last June, funds are available to start these projects. However, there continues to be a need for a steady stream of funds to not only defray monthly operating costs (running approximately \$3,400) but also to set aside for other building and infrastructure costs. As Meherana is a developing retreat center in the western United States for people with an interest in Meher Baba, should you wish to participate in its development, your monthly pledges or other donations are greatly appreciated.