

7th September 2017, 7.30pm – 9pm

Celebrating 25 years at Global Cooperation House

LONDON

REPORT



Brahma Bhojan was served to a group of over 200 invited friends, family and guests from 6pm, including a special 'birthday cake' to precede the 25 birthday celebration and appreciation of Brahma Kumaris at Global Cooperation House, which began at 7.30pm in the auditorium.

The evening was introduced lovingly by **Sister Rachel Priestman** who invited everyone to *'sit back as we are going to reminisce a little and dream a little....celebrate and appreciate this House, which is a house for all of us and a place where we express our love for God and His love for us'*.

The evening then flowed seamlessly with videos mapping some of the highlights of programmes and gatherings down the years demonstrating the inclusivity, belonging and love that so many thousands have experienced as they have passed in and out of the doors of Global Cooperation House. This was woven with music and song, performed by **Lucinda Drayton and Jonathan**and uplifting dance and personal sharing from a variety of souls, expressing the benefit and feelings generated within towards this place of love genuine care for humanity:



Lucinda's *'I am rich in every way, Abundance flows through me today; health and wealth and strength are mine; flow to me from the Divine'* raised the atmosphere and set the tone for what GCH has always been and continues to function as. A home for anyone and everyone to gain and grow. Dancers **Jean, Ditpi, Mira, Leon, Martha, Thiru, Priti**, demonstrated 'abundance' through their representation of many different cultures and peoples and the beauty and harmony of their dancing expression, celebrating joy, love and deep respect for the diverse family of humanity.

Lucinda reminded everyone that it is God's love flowing towards us that sums up this house and she invited the first two speakers to share:

Councillor Bhagwantiji Chohan, The Mayor of Brent: *This House brings everyone together...here we are all one. Dadi Janki was asked what do you want to build....a temple, a place of worship: She answered 'a house' - a house is for everyone where we can all unite and we have to bring the younger generation here to learn too. Look at that colourful dance performed by peoples from across the globe in such unity...it is possible we can make our world one'*

His Excellency, Dr Durgan Subedi, Ambassador of Nepal: *It is an honour and pleasure to be here on this 25th anniversary of Global Cooperation House here in London. We are gathered in the ancient land of England....this has been a home of unique heritage and Britain has welcomed and assimilated people from around the world enabling cultures and civilisations to continue and flourish....my country Nepal is also an ancient land and a unique place where Hinduism and Buddhism has coexisted. Beside the peaceful Himalaya Mountains our ancient culture has always looked for the deliverance from suffering. This region of the world is the cradle of religion, spirituality and civilization and where sacred wisdom of civilization began. I regard Dadi Janki as a great spiritual leader of the civilized world. Your dedication and wisdom are the rays for bringing about the victory of love and light over darkness. Brahma Kumaris is an international organisation creating peaceful coexistence and helping to make the world one family with a commitment to lighting up the eternal thoughts of life and self-realisation, embracing the human spirit. I also congratulate Sister Jayanti who is a great teacher and mentor.*

Another video told the story of the transformation of a small plot of land in North London, purchased in 1987...to become the building of Global Cooperation House...a place that has since witnessed thousands of programmes on non-violence and celebrating the human spirit. This followed into another song and dance connecting love and peace, before **Mr Ratan Thadani, Brahma Kumaris (UK) Trustee** shared some of his fond moments in the construction of the building. *'This was the largest building built by the Brahma Kumaris outside of India and the surrounding area has experienced the benefit of its peacefulness'. 'This building has such a pure vibration and is it really 25 years old....does it look this old? It will be the same when we gather for the golden jubilee – we never realised how many people this house was going to serve...thousands and hundreds of thousands'* He gave thanks to all those involved in the building project, in particular to the architect, Peter Neal, who was in the gathering.

BK Ken O'Donnell, Coordinator, Brahma Kumaris, South America: *'In 1975 I started with the Brahma Kumaris in a tiny room near here and since that time I have continued to visit once or twice each year and have seen it all grow. This is really because of Dadi Janki. God is upstairs but he has very capable people at this level! It is hard to imagine that world service would take off worldwide due to Dadi Janki's inspiration. Dadi had a dream to make a space big enough in London so that everyone could come. It is true that everyone in the whole world can fit in her heart and there is still space left over!' My physical home is Australia and I serve in Brazil but 'my home' is here.*

Song continued with *'Faith is taking the first step...loving You is like stepping on solid ground....'* Before Lucinda introduced **Sister Jayanti, European Director of the Brahma Kumaris.** *It is wonderful to have such a gathering of family and friends tonight and the mother, Dadi Janki, with us. I think we have to thank another angel who takes care of her so well...a big thank you to Hansaben.... This building is a result of the power of faith....and many continue on this journey and are here in this gathering... When we have a powerful pure thought to serve humanity then it is not just our thought but God filling our thought with an amazing grace that makes it happen in a smooth and easy way. We are celebrating all those who have been touched and continue to carry that love and joy in their hearts. I recognize many in the gathering. Our friendships and relationships have continued with a thread of love, purity and joy.....Many here have been sustained by spirituality and the power of love and faith in God. My faith in God came through knowledge and understanding as prior to that I thought there was someone up there. But understanding who I am and who He is through meditation transformed my life within days. I see how faith in God is something that is now coming up in the world and people are now wanting to know who is the Divine.....it is a great pleasure and honour to see God's work happen in a very magical way. It is the power of faith that will transform the world and create the sort of world we want...allowing people to have faith in themselves and the goodness that lies within. As this power develops.....together we will create a better world. The cooperation of everyone together will create that reality and I hold a powerful vision of this. The power of faith can be experienced in silence. Sister Jayanti then led everyone into a powerful meditation space to connect the gathering to the power of God's love to awaken truth within the soul so a world of truth can also be created.*



Sister Jayanti introduced **Soraya**, a 12 year old student at the Brahma Kumaris, who since 6 months old has been attending GCH with her grandmother. She shared that *'when we know God is there for us there is no need to be stressed. At school when it was assessments I remembered God and this helped and I did very well. I hope any young person who comes here will feel the same way as I have'*.

Lord Andrew Stone, celebrating today his 75th birthday: *I hope I don't look 75 years old just as this building doesn't look 25! I was looking to meditate many years ago and I met Sister Jayanti at a gathering in the House of Lords to look into human rights. We have to give the self, self-love and I have learnt to spend time with people who can help. When we meditate we receive love and compassion.....My journey with this all started here, with this love and now soon I am going to go to Mount Abu*

Dadi Janki was then welcomed onto the stage and Dadi quickly invited **Sister Joan**, who has been a student at the Brahma Kumaris for nearly 40 years and lives opposite GCH. *'Dadi has been my friend and mentor, my Mum, looking after me with such peace and happiness and this is what I want everyone to experience'*. **Sister Kala**, just arrived from New York, also shared greetings from Sister Mohini of New York *'who is here in spirit'*. *Dadi has been our remote surgeon. She has given us so much inspiration in how she heals herself.*



There is already an atmosphere of peace and another energy that does its work. Om Shanti. Om Shanti. Om Shanti. The first Om Shanti is a reminder of who I am....in spiritual consciousness we go inside and recognize that I the spiritual being is separate to this physical body. I, the soul, am still in the body but when I say the second om shanti I am remembering God and feel His might reaching me...

In that state of Om Shanti, not only do I receive might from God also it creates such an atmosphere that no one else has useless thoughts. In 1969 when Brahma Baba passed on, we say he went up to the subtle region, the angelic plane. I asked myself the question 'what would happen now'. One of the senior brothers, Jagdishbhai, said that now is the time to serve the world and he was told to go to Dadi Janki.

During Baba's life in the 1960s there were two places that He would write regularly to: London and Hong Kong. One was to Rajniben, Sister Jayanti's mother, here in London. Baba would read her letters and dictate to me a letter to send back. Dada Govind and Sister Kavita's parents were in Hong Kong and service abroad started in these two places. *(Sister Jayanti: My parents came to London when I was 8 and Dadi thought that this child shouldn't be taken to London, but as it turned out I had the fortune of bringing Dadi to London. Dadi didn't have 5 pounds or 5 rupees)*

Whether you are here for the first time or have been studying Raj Yoga for 40 years in the meeting with the Divine there is a power that is generated and this is this power that has created GCH. I didn't do anything; I don't want to be called a Dadi or live in a special place.....I want nothing. When we arrived in 1975 we found an old door and that became the seating by day and by bed by night!

We have five fingers...they are not the same....The little finger is the symbol of cooperation and this programme has happened with cooperation. I cannot count the number of people who have benefitted being here in this house. In GCH we had a big kitchen, dining room and the class rooms but nowhere to stay so Diamond House was built too. The middle finger is to anoint someone, and the first finger points to God and brings everyone together. Whatever happened in the past put a full stop. Whatever challenge may come, the thumb is the symbol of determination and with God's remembrance there is success and victory. When the finger points towards the Supreme we receive power and there is no consciousness of ego – just a feeling of being one. I travel to serve - all

I want to do is to enable each one to experience this love and happiness. He is the one who works directly and through others and even though I am in the body I am detached. Sometimes there is much pain in the body and I say to Baba: You can call me if you want....but He doesn't call me and He keeps me here and makes me well and I carry on and do what I need to do. There are many friends here who I have known for many years. So let the mind become peaceful and quiet. Don't ask the question what and why? Let God be your companion and when this is so we can watch the whole drama as a detached observer and everything works out fine in life.

Who is here today...specially invited friends....let us have a moment of silence together and then a chance to have *toli* (sweet) and become holy. Let us have a minute of silence in which we experience such stillness no one wants to move.

Lucinda Drayton invited the gathering to an uplifting sing-a-long to the opening song, *Abundance....I am rich in every way, abundance flows through me today; health and wealth and strength are mine...flow to me from the Divine.....*

Sister Maureen expressed deep gratitude for this beautiful celebration for the life of this House and of those who have come and gone and continue to come....a real celebration of life. We thank God, The Divine.... Special thanks were given to **Pearl Jordan** and **Minal Patel** for co-creating and producing the programme and a special acknowledgement to the many departments throughout the house who cooperated in putting the evening together with so much love.



Dadiji's final message to everyone was to signal everyone that the work to be done is to put a full stop to the past and to see the three aspects of time. 'I am not tired and so I am not going to retire'!

Everyone then met Dadi and Sister Jayanti through personal *drishti* (sharing of spiritual vibrations through eye to eye contact) and the sharing of blessings, gifts and *toli*.

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