

News of Lataben Nehra of Nottingham



Dear Brothers & Sisters,

BK Lataben Nehra of Nottingham peacefully flew to Baba on Thursday 17 November 2022 at 3.08am. She passed with love, surrounded by her family. Lataben had been suffering from Parkinson's disease and had sustained serious fractures following a fall. She was 82 years young. Lataben was born on 26 February 1940 in Mombasa, Kenya to her parents Vidya Wati Dosaj and Raj Gopal Madan Dosaj. She had 6 siblings, 3 brothers and sisters.

Lataben started school at 5 years old attending a convent school, 'The Star of the Sea School' run by the French 'Our Lady of Africa' Catholic sisters, also called 'The White Sisters'. Lataben loved school and was very bright. She wanted to be the best in her class and excelled at whatever she put her mind to, whether it be academic study or sports. Lataben passed the Senior Cambridge Certificate which is equivalent to GCSE's today and then went on to do a Teacher's Training Course for 2 years. After completing this she went on to become a teacher at a girl's school in Mombasa called Mebini Girls School. She was popular among her colleagues and students.

In 1960 Lataben's father passed away and shortly afterwards her elder sister, Devi arranged Lataben's marriage to Kewal Krishen Nehra who lived in nearby Kisumu. They were married in 1963 and lived in Kisumu, Kenya. Lataben taught at the Gujarati Girls School, M. M. Shah School in Kisumu. In June 1966 Lataben had her eldest daughter Meera and a few years later in April 1970 her second daughter Mamta was born.

Following Idi Amin's decree to expel all Ugandan Asians, In October 1970, Kewalbhai and Lataben decided to emigrate to Nottingham where the Nehra family had settled. Here they both worked tirelessly to build a new life. Lataben obtained a Teaching position in North Nottingham at Butlers Hill Nursery and Infant school catching three buses to get there along with her youngest daughter in tow who she enrolled in the nursery there. It was a difficult time as many parents from this working-class mining community did not want a person of colour teaching their children. Lataben overcame their resistance and taught there for a few years. She continued her studies whilst also raising a young family.

She then moved to a school much nearer home, Collygate School Primary in the Meadows area of Nottingham and after a few years moved to her final school, Edna G Olds School in Lenton, Nottingham. Lataben was passionate about her work and strongly believed in helping families in these inner-city communities. She dedicated 30 years of her life to teaching before retiring in the mid 1980's.

During this time Lataben was introduced to the Brahma Kumaris via Anjanaben from Nottingham who held Friday evening gatherings at her home. Here Brahma Kumaris from nearby Leicester Centre would attend and share Baba's knowledge. Lataben was hooked and from that point dedicated the rest of her life to serving Baba. Her husband Kewalbhai followed in her footsteps a few years later and together they opened and managed Nottingham Centre.

Lataben was instrumental in sharing Baba's knowledge to the City of Nottingham. She built a network within the community at the highest levels including the Mayor and Sheriff of Nottingham and the Director of Nottingham County Council. Through these relationships she gained support and involvement to successfully launch a number of campaigns to promote Baba's knowledge. Amongst the projects she got involved in was the global campaign, the Million Minutes of Peace Appeal, and organised conferences for Senior Police Officers, Council Leaders and other professionals across the City.

Lataben was very passionate about serving souls, giving them courses, and inviting them to the centre for spiritual sustenance. She used to hire the town hall and other venues for public events with Dadi Janki, Sr Jayanti and Sudesh Didi. Especially during the Rakhi month she would prepare many personal invitation cards for posting to VIPs, IPs and those in contact to attend in person and share Brahma Bhojan with them. Lataben would do the same during Christmas celebrations. She also started prison service in Nottingham and she used to conduct meditation at the international Yoga Day gathering.

Lataben touched many people's lives and helped so many people in their time of need. She was a hardworking, determined, tenacious, innovative soul who was a role model to many. Even during her illness and the last few days of her life, she never stopped serving Baba, sharing his message to the other residents at the Care Home she was living in. Lataben devoted her life to Baba and is now at peace sitting in Baba's lap.

The funeral for Lataben will take place on:

Tuesday 29 November 2022 at 10am

Wilford Hill Crematorium, Loughborough Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7FE

Brahma Bhojan will be served at Harmony House, Leicester Centre at 1pm.

There will be a live webcast of the funeral service at:

<https://watch.obitus.com>

Username daji4493

Password 604366

We send our good wishes in Baba's remembrance to Lataben and her family.

With love,
In Baba's yaad,

Sr Jayanti