

A note from Richard Sclove about Sonoma Ashram's Guru Purnima Celebration ...

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW SLIDESHOW OF 2012 GURU PURNIMA](#)

Dear Friends and Fellow Sonoma Ashram Family Members,

On July 3rd Sonoma Ashram gathered for Guru Purnima, a holiday that celebrates the role of the guru in our lives. Guru Purnima coincides with the full moon of July. The fullness of the moon symbolizes the fullness that we experience when living in alignment with the guru – both the guru without and the guru residing within each of us in the form of our higher Self.

My family and I have been part of the Sonoma Ashramsangha (spiritual community) for nearly a decade, but this is the first time that I have been able to travel across the country for Guru Purnima. It was such a heartwarming experience to be among the sangha members from far and wide who had gathered to strengthen the link with guru.

Preparations began several days in advance, as everyone pitched in to groom the ashram grounds into an immaculate and beautiful symbol of the guru's residence in our own hearts. Activities on the day of Guru Purnima included a flag-raising, *arati* (ritual worship) in the temple, *kirtan* (call-and-response devotional chanting), a wonderful Indian meal, chanting the *Guru Gita* (an ancient Sanskrit poem about the guru), heartfelt testimonial speeches, an inspiring *satsang* by Babaji, and ample time to socialize with old and new Ashram friends.

Indian lore has it that even to catch a glimpse of the guru on Guru Purnima is extremely auspicious. Babaji encourages all *sangha* members to try to attend at least one Guru Purnima.

Please click [here](#) to watch a slideshow of Guru Purnima 2012.

Namaste,

Richard Sclove richard@sclove.org

