



# THE CONCH

www.theconchnewsletter.org

"Lord Sri Krishna and Arjuna blew their celestial conches to rally and enthuse the devotees."

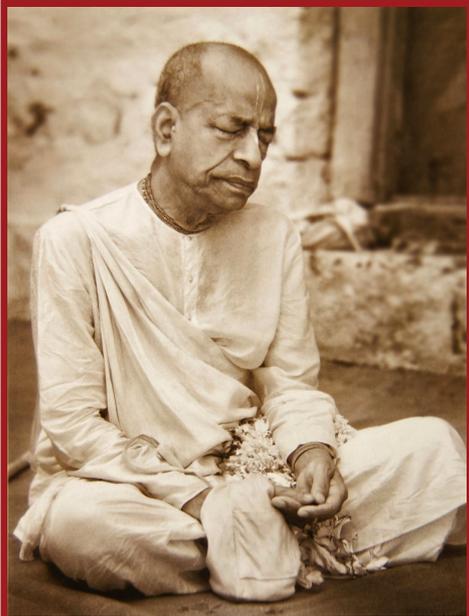
## NEWSLETTER

of New Govardhana Community



Dedicated to His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, Founder-acarya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness

### SNAPSHOTS .....



ISKCON Founder-Acarya His Divine Grace  
A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

#### Prabhupada uvaca ...

During the reign of Lord Ramachandra, the streets of the capital, Ayodhya, were sprinkled with perfumed water and drops of perfumed liquor, thrown about by elephants from their trunks. When the citizens saw the Lord personally supervising the affairs of the city in such opulence, they appreciated this opulence very much.

The palaces, the palace gates, the assembly houses, the platforms for meeting places, the temples and all such places were decorated with golden waterpots and bedecked with various types of flags.

Wherever Lord Ramachandra visited, auspicious welcome gates were constructed, with banana trees and betel nut trees, full of flowers and fruits. The gates were decorated with various flags made of colorful cloth and with tapestries, mirrors and garlands.

SB 9:11 Purport

Urvasi devi dasi



The recent Gaura Purnima festival was a big success

Urvasi devi dasi



Devotees and guests join in the sweet bhajans led by Chandra and Kalyani

Urvasi devi dasi



The Golden Avatar Lord Sri Krishna Caitanya Mahaprabhu

Urvasi devi dasi



HH Ramai Swami offers ghee lamps to Sri Sri Gaura Nitai

Urvasi devi dasi



Dhanesvari devi dasi was among the pujaris offering Abhisheka to Their Lordships

#### HELP

keep The Conch in print  
newgovconch@gmail.com

## KALINDI TURNS 10

Dhriti Gopi devi dasi



Kalindi

It was no surprise to Ajita dasa and Dhriti Gopi devi dasi when their young daughter Kalindi said, "For my birthday I want to feed all the devotees a great feast".

Kalindi worked hard for weeks washing cars and saving so she could sponsor the feast. She raised almost \$400. "She is a hard worker and a good little organizer" her mother Dhriti said. Not only did she fund raise for the feast but she also created the menu which consisted of lasagna, paneer, zucchini pakora, bread buns, marble cake, strawberries & cream, vanilla icecream and a drink.

The feeding of devotees on one's birthday is a traditional way of attracting auspiciousness, goodwill and blessings for the upcoming year. Needless to say we all thank Kalindi for the lovely feast and wish her well for the future.

## GOKULA'S PEDAL POWERED PUMP

by Mandakini devi dasi

Gokula dasa and Vilasi dasi will be installing a pedal powered water pump as part of the water supply system for the mudbrick house they are building.

It consists of an Ajax one and a half inch piston pump coupled to bicycle pedals, chain and gears. The seating is in the recumbent style for comfort. It takes only 10 minutes of pumping each day to supply 300 litres of water, which would service a family of 5. That works out at 2 minutes per person per day.

Rainwater will be collected from the roof and stored in a 50,000 litre tank partially buried in the ground. From there it will be pumped to a 1,000 litre header tank on a 5 metre stand using the pedal pump. This header tank then supplies water at pressure to the house and gardens. By using a human powered system like this, there is no need for petrol or electric engines, and forms part of the philosophy of "Simple Living, High Thinking" that Srila Prabhupada envisioned for our farming communities.



Gokula dasa with his pedal powered water pump

## THANKS TO HH MUKUNDA GOSWAMI

The members of The Conch editorial board would like to thank HH Mukunda Goswami for his help and guidance in bringing you this wonderful community newsletter over the last six months. Maharaja has other commitments and thus he will be stepping back as Editorial Consultant, although he will continue to inspire us. (by Conch Editor)

## RAMA NAVAMI FESTIVAL APRIL 1ST



<http://lord-rama-wallpapers-hd.blogspot.com>

### Rama Navami program

(Fast till sunset)

- 3:00 pm Bhajanas
- 4:00 pm Arati
- 4:15 pm Gurukula play –  
**Lord Rama and the Dog**
- 4:30 pm Class by  
HH Mukunda Goswami
- 5:15 pm Abhiseka of Sita Rama
- 6:00 pm Guru Puja
- 6:30 pm Feast



[www.last.fm](http://www.last.fm)

HH Mukunda Goswami

# IN MEMORY OF NRSIMHADEVA DASA (15 MARCH 1959 - 17 MARCH 2012)



**Nrsimhadeva Prabhu**

*by Bhakti dasi*

With great sadness yet spiritual joy, devotees, family, personal friends and acquaintances said 'au revoir' (till we meet again) to Nrsimhadeva dasa. The funeral ceremony was held in the Murwillumbah Civic Centre on Friday 23 March 2012. Approximately 300 people came to honour a man who was a great devotee, father and husband, a friend to all, an inspiration to many and a fantastic cook whose door was always open.

This *maharathi* fund-raised well over a million dollars for maintaining Australian temples and the Mayapur Project. Nrsimha bought the marble for the deity room walls at ISKCON Melbourne with an insurance payout from a

previous accident. It is because of early devotees like him, that we have such a beautiful temple and farm in Melbourne.

Nrsimha took re-initiation from His Holiness Srila Tamal Krsna Goswami in approximately 1994. After cancer surgery his guru called for Nrsimha who dropped everything and flew across the world to be at his side to tend to his needs.

'Shring' presented Krsna Consciousness in a down to earth Aussie manner. His cheeky smile, oceanic laugh and enlivening association will be sorely missed. However, we take comfort knowing that, being eternal souls, we will definitely meet again in the spiritual world where surely his guru Srila Tamal Krsna Goswami and Srila Prabhupada took him to engage in higher services to the Divine Couple, Sri Sri Radha Govardhanadhari.

Our love and support go out to Syama Rasa, Tarunya and Sundari who showed great courage and spiritual strength in Nrsimhadeva's last weeks.

## EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

Articles submitted to the Conch should contain 200 words or less and can be supplied in either MS Word format or typed directly into the body of an email. Photos must be submitted in JPG format.

All articles and photos must be sent to [newgovconch@gmail.com](mailto:newgovconch@gmail.com) by the 21st of each month. Articles and photos must include the names of the author and photographer. Your name will appear exactly as you submit it.

## EDITOR/DESIGN & LAYOUT

*Urvasi devi dasi*

For enquiries, comments or suggestions please contact [www.theconchnewsletter.org](http://www.theconchnewsletter.org)

## EDITORIAL BOARD:

*Damodara Pandit dasa, Dhanesvara dasa, Karunika devi dasi,  
Mandakini devi dasi, Satya devi dasi*

# 52 YEARS AND STILL GOING ...



*Ekadasi devi dasi*

**Govardhana Seva dasa and Ekadasi  
devi dasi recently celebrated their 52nd  
wedding anniversary**

*By Ekadasi devi dasi*

Ekadasi devi dasi and Govardhana Seva dasa celebrated 52 years of wedded bliss on 26th March 2012.

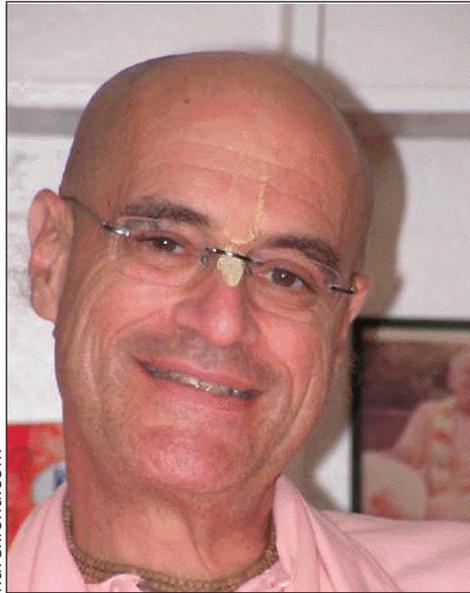
They first met at a dance in their home town of Cardiff, Wales in 1955 when Gordon was 20 and Elaine 15. In their ensuing conversation, Elaine mentioned a camping holiday with her parents in Weymouth a few months earlier, during which her father and another camper were chased by a bull as they were collecting water from the well. They both ran for their lives, not realising that the bull was tethered by a long rope. It turned out that the other camper was none other than Gordon!

They became engaged in 1958 and married in 1960 and have three sons, Steven, Gary and David, and 6 grandchildren.

Govardhana Seva attributes their marital longevity to excellent communication with each other and sharing everything in their day to day lives. Ekadasi believes their success has been blessed by always keeping God in the centre.



## HH BIR KRISHNA DAS GOSWAMI IS BACK



harekrnsna.com

**HH Bir Krishna Goswami Maharaja**

New Govardhana is pleased to announce the visit of Bir Krishna das Goswami Maharaja in April.

Maharaja will be speaking at the wedding of Krishna Balarama dasa and Gauri devi dasi, to be held at New Govardhana on Saturday 21 April at 11.00 am. He will be holding a seminar on Empathic Communication on Sunday 22 April in Brisbane, and giving the Srimad Bhagavatam class Monday 23 April. He will be meeting with devotees during the day and there will be an evening program at Rupa Ragunatha Prabhu's house. For further details contact Krishna Rupa devi dasi 0488 045 858.

## HELP US KEEP THE CONCH IN PRINT

Govardhana Seva dasa and Ekadasi devi dasi have pledged to donate \$10 per month towards the printing costs of the Conch. So now, we just need 5 of our readers to come forward and pledge \$10 per month to keep the Conch going in print.

Krishna Rangini devi dasi donated \$10 and an anonymous donor gave \$30.

If you would also like to support the Conch in this way please contact Urvasi devi dasi on 0403 977 777 or by email [newgovconch@gmail.com](mailto:newgovconch@gmail.com)

## THE IMPORTANCE OF SAMSKARAS

by *Nrsimha Kavaca dasa*

Srila Prabhupada states *janmana jayante sudra* by birth everyone is the same (*sudra*) without any knowledge. *Samskaras* gradually bring a person with no knowledge of spiritual life to the spiritual platform; *samskarad bhaved dvijah* by the purificatory process one attains essential spiritual rebirth; *samskara* is the process of purification.



Everyone is given the chance for a real education. Human life provides the opportunity to understand that as we are part and parcel of God, Krishna, the aim of life is to go back home to Godhead. In the spiritual world there is no struggle for existence and we live blissfully happy lives forever.

*Samskaras* fulfil many needs in *Vaisnava* communities. Functions like weddings, first grains and initiations bring the community together and play an important part in cultivating Krishna consciousness for devotees, family members and guests.

*Samskaras* were performed throughout Vedic history; by Sandipani Muni for Krishna and Balarama, and Jagannatha Misra and Sacidevi for Lord Caitanya. Also, Srila Bhaktivnoda Thakur performed *anna prasana* (first grains) for Bimala Prasad, later known as Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur. *Samskaras* are therefore important purificatory rites of passage and because they are connected to Krishna leave a spiritual impression on the *jiva*.

*Nrsimha Kavaca dasa*, as ISKCON's Deity Worship Minister, is experienced with all types of *samskaras* and is available to help arrange, assist, and perform *samskaras* for you and your loved ones in order to help bring about the best circumstances for progressing in Krishna Consciousness.

He was recently appointed Head Pujari here at New Govardhana.

## A BIG THANK YOU TO GAURA SHAKTI

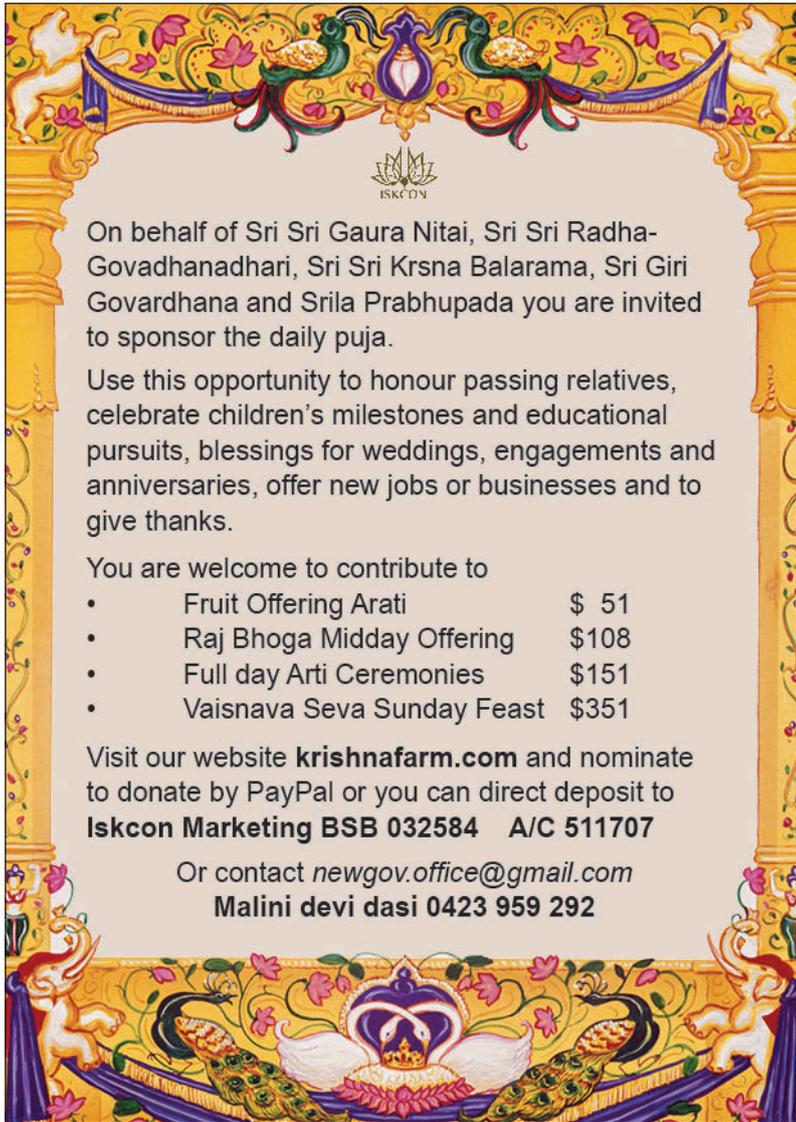


**Gaura Shakti devi dasi**

We would like to take this opportunity on behalf of Sri Sri Radha Govardhanadhari, Sri Sri Krishna Balarama, Lord Giriraja, Sri Sri Gaura Nitai, Srila Prabhupada and all the devotees of our community to extend a very warm thank you to Gaura Shakti devi dasi for her dedication and enthusiasm in her service as Head Pujari for the past 5 years.

Over the last few months, during the transition period in the Deity Department, anyone who had to "fill in" for Gaura will know what a demanding service it is. From rosters, to dressing Dieties, to festivals and everything in between, this service has been a challenge - and one she met successfully.

# ADVERTISEMENTS



ISKCON

On behalf of Sri Sri Gaura Nitai, Sri Sri Radha-Govadhanadhari, Sri Sri Krsna Balarama, Sri Giri Govardhana and Srila Prabhupada you are invited to sponsor the daily puja.

Use this opportunity to honour passing relatives, celebrate children's milestones and educational pursuits, blessings for weddings, engagements and anniversaries, offer new jobs or businesses and to give thanks.

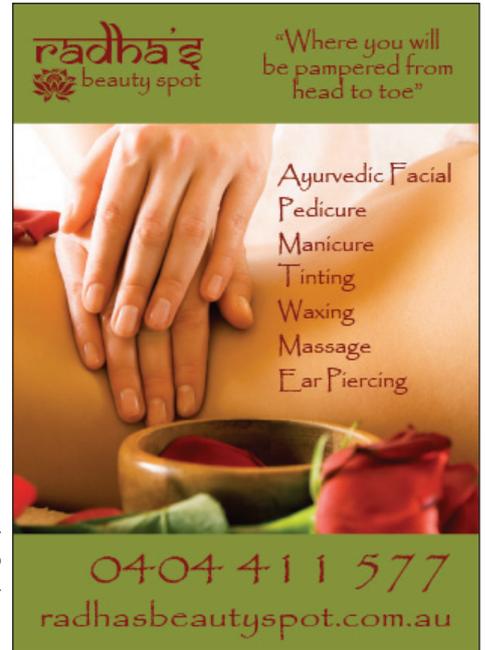
You are welcome to contribute to

- Fruit Offering Arati \$ 51
- Raj Bhoga Midday Offering \$108
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Visit our website [krishnafarm.com](http://krishnafarm.com) and nominate to donate by PayPal or you can direct deposit to **Iskcon Marketing BSB 032584 A/C 511707**

Or contact [newgov.office@gmail.com](mailto:newgov.office@gmail.com)  
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## KRISHNA WANTS YOU !



### Service opportunities - no experience required

- Cooking Wednesday breakfast - Brahmans required
- General maintenance/ gardening
- Garland makers

### Current Vacancy ..

**Wanted:** Weekly cleaner for the Deity kitchen

**Qualification:** Enthusiasm

**Hours:** Minimum 2 hours weekly

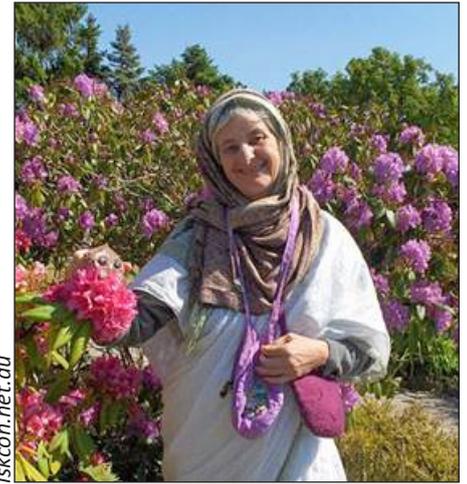
**Please contact Dhanesvara dasa or Karunika devi dasi 0402 763 291**

## NARAYANI DEVI DASI SEMINAR "LEARNING FROM 24 GURUS" - APRIL 12 - 16

We are privileged to have Narayani devi dasi visiting New Govardhana again this year. She will be presenting a seminar consisting of five classes entitled, **Learning from 24 Gurus**. These classes will be held in the temple room 12 April to 16 April 2012 from 5.00 pm, followed by Gaura Arati and *prasadam*.

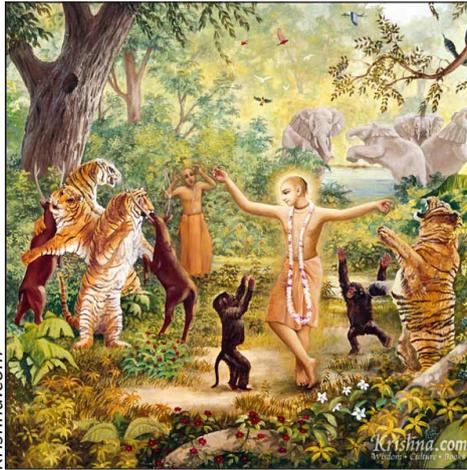
*"One should not mechanically receive the teachings of one's guru. The disciple should be thoughtful and with his own intelligence realize in practice what he has heard from his spiritual master by observing the world around him". (SB 11.9.31 purport)*

She will examine each of the 24 gurus by asking the following questions:  
What do we learn from this guru?  
How did Srila Prabhupada exemplify this quality?  
What benefit will we achieve by applying this lesson?  
How can we apply this lesson to our life in relationship to Krishna?



Narayani devi dasi

## HARINAMA SANKIRTANA KI JAYA



### Friday Evenings 6.30 pm

Bhakti Centre Surfers Paradise  
[bhakticentregoldcoast.com.au](http://bhakticentregoldcoast.com.au)

### Sunday Mornings

Northern NSW & Gold Coast  
[www.folkkrishna.com/program.htm](http://www.folkkrishna.com/program.htm)  
Isvara dasa 0411 825 549

### Wednesday 10.30 am

Byron Bay Hari Nama at the park opposite the Post Office. For further details and transport information please contact **Parama Karuna dasa 0439 280 362**

## APRIL CALENDAR

(from the online Vaisnava calender [www.vaisnavacalender.com](http://www.vaisnavacalender.com))

- 1 Su Rama Navami: Appearance of Lord Sri Ramacandra (Fast today)  
3 Tu Ekadasi (suitable for fasting) Kamada Ekadasi  
4 We Dvadasi Break fast 5.59 am - 9.53 am  
7 Sa Sri Balarama Rasayatra  
Sri Krsna Vasanta Rasa  
Sri Vamsivadana Thakura — Appearance  
Sri Syamananda Prabhu — Appearance  
12 Th **Community Meeting 5.00 pm Community Hall**  
13 Fr Sri Abhirama Thakura — Disappearance  
14 Sa Tulasi Jala Dan begins  
16 Mo Srila Vrndavana Dasa Thakura — Disappearance  
17 Tu Ekadasi (suitable for fasting) Varuthini Ekadasi  
18 We Dvadasi Break fast 6.06 - 9.53  
21 Sa Sri Gadadhara Pandita — Appearance  
**Vaisnava Short Film Festival 5.00 pm**  
24 Tu Candana Yatra starts (Continues for 21 days)

## HELP !

We need  
flowers and  
garland makers

**URGENTLY**

If you are able to supply flowers or help with making garlands please contact Karunika devi dasi on 0401 225 621

