

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

May 2013



krishnafarm.com

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

Nrsimhadeva Caturdasi

Prahlāda Mahārāja said: My dear King, the source of my strength, of which you are asking, is also the source of yours. Indeed, the original source of all kinds of strength is one. He is not only your strength or mine, but the only strength for everyone. Without Him, no one can get any strength. Whether moving or not moving, superior or inferior, everyone, including Lord Brahmā, is controlled by the strength of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. SB 7:8:7

**Fri 24
May**



aku 1/24/09

FAMOUS NARASIMHA TEMPLES

Compiled from various sources by
Urvashi devi dasi

Simhachalam

Simhachalam temple is located near Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, South India. The presiding deities are Sri Varaha Lakshmi Narasimha. The word Simhachalam means the hill of the lion and refers to the 11th century temple of Lord Narasimha - an incarnation of Lord Vishnu who appeared as half man (*nara*) and half lion (*simha*), which partly fulfills a boon given by Lord Brahma to the demon Hiranyakasipu.



A painting of Sri Varaha Lakshmi Narasimha, the presiding deity at Simhachalam

Simhachalam is one of the 18 "Narasimha kshetras" of Lord Narasimha in India, where the deity gives *darshan* (audience) for only 12 hours in a year on *Akshaya Tritiya* day during the month of May. The Deity resembles a *Shivalingam* covered with sandalwood paste. The *ugra* form of Narasimha as he killed the demon Hiranyakashipu was so fierce that the image is kept covered by sandalwood paste throughout the year. This demon attempted to kill his son Prahlada, a great devotee of Lord Vishnu, but was thwarted in his attempts by Lord Narasimha.

An interesting thing that sets this temple apart from the other Narasimha temples is that the

Lord's feet are not visible due to them being covered by the earth. When the Lord came to rescue Prahlada, He jumped from His carrier Garuda and his feet went deep into the earth. This is a west facing temple and according to the shastra (scripture), an east-facing entrance brings prosperity while a west-facing one brings victory.

Ahobilam

Ahobilam is located in the Karnool district of Andhra Pradesh in the hills of the eastern *ghats*, about 400 kilometers north-west of Chennai (Madras). Ahobilam is the place where the Lord killed Hiranyakasipu and saved his devotee Prahalada.

The temple consists of nine shrines dedicated to Lord Narasimha located in a five kilometer radius. In addition to the nine shrines, there is a temple for Prahaladavarada Varadhan in the foothills of the mountain. There are a number of *tirthas* (holy water ponds) in this vicinity. Of these, Rakhakundam is the most important. It is stated that Lord Narasimha, after killing the demon Hiranyakasipu, washed his hands in this *tirtha*, and hence the water is still reddish in appearance.

Garuda wished for a vision of Lord Narasimha. To fulfill his wish, the Lord settled in the hills around Ahobilam in the midst of dense forests in nine different forms. For this reason this hill came to be known as Garudadri.



Lord Narasimha in a pillar at the Ahobilam Temple



Narasimhadeva Sri Mayapur Chandrodaya Mandir

Mayapur

This rare form of Narasimhadeva is known as "Sthanu-Narasimha" and this is the only place where this particular form of Narasimhadeva is known to be worshipped. With bent knees and in great anger with reddish eyes, He is ready to spring out of the pillar to attack the demons and protect His devotees. The Deity was installed in Mayapur in 1986, after the temple was attacked by dacoits.

Such deities were carved over 3,000 years ago by very elevated *sthapatis* (sculptors). There is a place on the way to Mysore where a very ferocious Ugra-Narasimha is installed. The demon Hiranyakashipu is torn open on His lap and his intestines are spilling out all over the altar. Once, the standard of worship there was very high. There was an elephant procession and festival every day. But gradually the worship declined. Today that place is like a ghost town. The whole village is deserted.

A deity in this particular mood is called Sthanu-Narasimha. He doesn't exist on this planet, except at Mayapur. Even the demigods in the heavenly planets don't worship a form like this.

SRI GADADHARA PANDIT

by Mandakini devi dasi

Gadadhara Pandita is one of the key eternal associates of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu.

Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu is always accompanied by His plenary expansion Sri Nityananda Prabhu, His incarnation Sri Advaita Prabhu, His internal potency Sri Gadadhara Prabhu and His marginal potency Srivasa Prabhu.

Caitanya-caritamrta explains that we can understand that Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu is the supreme predominator, and Nityananda and Advaita, although subordinate, are also predominators. All are Visnu-tattva, while Sri Gadadhara is an incarnation of the pleasure potency of Krishna (Srimati Radharani) and considered Their worshiper. He



gaudiyahistory.com

is also the representative of the perfect *brahmana* spiritual master, while Srivasa represents a perfect *brahmana* devotee.

Whenever Gadadhara would read Srimad-Bhagavatam, he would become mad in separation from Krishna. Tears would wash away the letters on the pages. When Srinivasa came to him for study, Gadadhara said, "Dear son, whenever I read Srimad-Bhagavatam to Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, the letters are washed away by my tears. Therefore, I cannot read to you. Please find a book somewhere else".

THE LIFE OF JAYANANDA PRABHU

by Damodara Pandit dasa (from a compilation by Kalakantha dasa)

Always introspective in nature, Jim Kohr (later Jayananda Prabhu) felt unsatisfied during his college years. He would often say that he was "never happy" before joining Krishna consciousness. In 1967, he read a small article in a San Francisco paper, about an Indian swami (Srila Prabhupada) who had come to the Bay Area to propagate the chanting of the names of God. Jayananda recalled feeling a "ray of hope" when he read that article. Thinking the swami may have something to offer, Jayananda made up his mind to attend the swami's lectures.

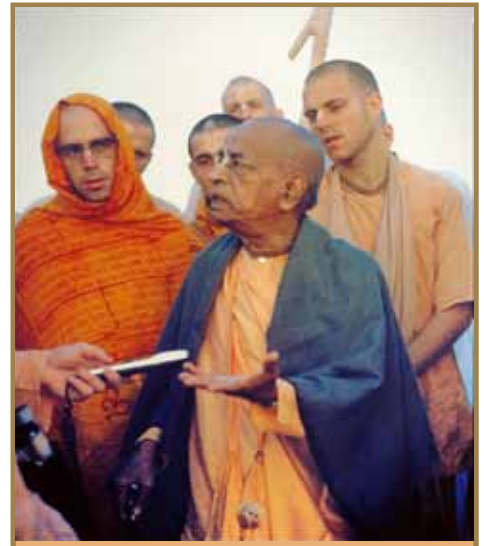
Srila Prabhupada's early lectures in the Bay Area were mostly attended by hippies, and Jayananda was one of the only "straight" people there. Jayananda later recalled that, "I wasn't much of a religionist, but I was attracted to Srila Prabhupada." Srila Prabhupada was always fond



iskontimes.com

HG Jayananda Prabhu

of Jayananda, and sometimes he would invite his budding disciple to take *prasadam* with him in his room. "Srila Prabhupada would cook *prasadam* and serve me," Jayananda recalled. "He didn't say anything. He just kept feeding me, and I kept eating." Jayananda soon donated his life savings of \$5,000 to Srila Prabhupada to help His Divine Grace print the Bhagavad-As It Is. As more and more devotees joined ISKCON in the Bay Area, Jayananda continued to work as (continued on page 7)



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

Srila Prabhupada uvaca ...

So nobody can kill God. The demons, Godless society, they simply want to kill God. But actually, God is never killed, but the demon is killed by God. That is the law of nature. This is the instruction from Prahlada Maharaja's life. We can understand that as it is stated in the Bhagavad-gita, *mrtuyuh sarva-haras caham*. In the Bhagavad-gita it is said that "I am also death in the shape of taking away everything, whatever you possess." We are very much proud of possessing material things, material acquisition, but when Krishna comes... just like Maharaja, Prahlada Maharaja saw Hiranyakasipu. His father also saw Narasimhadeva. This Hiranyakasipu was very clever as the materialists, scientists, are very clever. Cleverly they are inventing so many things. What is the idea? The idea is "We shall live forever and enjoy sense gratification more and more." This is called atheistic advancement of civilization.

Lecture - Bombay 5 May 1974

TALKS BETWEEN RAMANANDA RAYA AND SRI CHAITANYA MAHAPRABHU

Compiled and condensed by Mandakini devi dasi



vicitri.volante.com

The conversation between Ramananda Raya and Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu can be found in Caitanya Caritamrta, Madhya-lila, Chapter Eight. There it is stated, that by hearing these talks, one can develop unalloyed love for Radha and Krishna.

Ramananda Raya, who occupied the post of Governor of Madras, arrived on a palanquin at the Godavari River to take his bath.

Accompanied by many *brahmanas*, he was overwhelmed by the sight of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, Who was as brilliant as 100 suns.

At that time They both experienced intense ecstasy in each other's presence, for Ramananda Raya was none other than the *gopi* Visakha. The Lord agreed to Ramananda's entreaties to remain in the area for some time, so that They could discuss at length the process of devotion.

Meeting in the evenings, The Lord first requested Ramananda to recite verses from the Vedas and asked him to explain the object and process of worship. The Lord further questioned him about *varnasrama*, detachment, knowledge mixed with devotion, spontaneous loving service and much more. For 10 nights They discussed the intimate pastimes of Krishna, until Lord Caitanya asked Ramananda to please allow Him to leave. He suggested that Ramananda give up his material engagements and come to Jagannatha Puri, where They could remain, and happily continue Their discussion.

SRIMATI JAHNAVA MATA

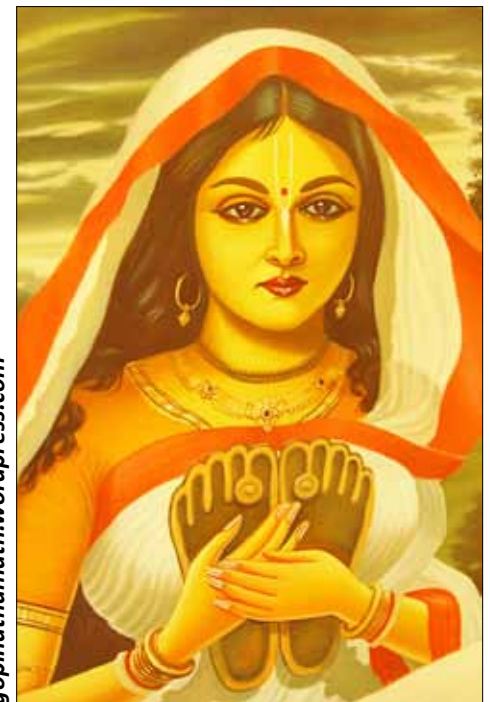
Compiled by Mandakini devi dasi

Jahnava and her sister Vasudha were the daughters of Surya dasa and Bhadravati dasi, and lived in the village of Shaligrama near Navadvipa. They became the wives of Nityananda prabhu. In their previous lives they were married to Balarama and were known as Revati and Varuni. Known as the energy of Nityananda, Jahnava was an ocean of mercy.

During her travels, Jahnava Mata visited Vrindavana, stopping on the way at a prosperous village where she delivered atheists and criminals, bestowing Krishna-*prema* upon them.

Arriving in Vrindavana, she saw the samadhi of Gaura dasa Pandit, which moved her to tears. Remaining at a *ghat* in Vraja for three days, she was overcome by ecstasy upon seeing a vision of Krishna and hearing His flute. The place where she stayed is now known as Sri Jahnava Ghat.

Bhaktivinode Thakura has written, "O Jahnava devi, be merciful to this servant today. Deliver me from my pain and give me a place in the boat of your lotus feet, so that I can be sure to cross over the ocean of birth and death. You are Nityananda's energy. You are devotion to Krishna".



gopinatham.wordpress.com

Srimati Jahnava Mata



Urvasi devi dasi

Kera decorating the temple for Gaura Purnima 2013

It was exactly one year ago when Kera Miners drove by the New Varshana temple in Auckland, New Zealand with her mother. They decided to stop and investigate.

Once inside the temple, Kera was 'blown away' by the mood and ambience. She was further enthralled to hear the philosophy from Amrta Pani devi dasi. "It all seemed so thoroughly logical to me", she recalls. "This was what I had been searching for. When Amrta offered us delicious *prasadam*, I was totally impressed by such kindness".

At that time, Kera was engaged in working a 40-hour week at a local supermarket. The work was dull and mechanical for this artistically creative young woman and she yearned for something more satisfying.

Her paternal grandfather had been a famous musician and lyricist for the renowned 80's band, 'Dragon'. Kera not only inherited his musical talent but a passion for drawing and painting.

Since relocating to New Govardhana, her winsome and high-spirited nature has found fulfillment in learning to sing *bhajan*s while playing the harmonium. She has painted images around the WWOOFer area, and at festival times, transforms the temple windows with attractive portraits.

She is excitedly awaiting Lord Narasimha's Appearance day and Sri Krishna Janmastami when she hopes to spend more quality time adorning the temple windows. Kera very much enjoys her paraphernalia service at New Govardhana and is looking forward to increasing her cooking skills.

PLANTING SEEDS IN AUSTRALIAN PRISONS *by Radha dasi*

One day, while chanting my japa, the inspiration came to me to serve in prison ministry. I

researched on the internet and saw a request from ISKCON Prison Ministry (IPM) for volunteer pen pals. I thought this was an easy service, one I would enjoy and could do from the comfort of my home and in my own time. I contacted Bhakti-lata mataji and expressed my interest. Unfortunately, as I live in Australia, it was not possible to correspond with prisoners in the US as they couldn't afford the overseas stamps. Bhakti-lata suggested that I start up the prison ministry here in Australia.

At first I was excited and enthusiastic, but then became a bit overwhelmed by the task. Bhakti-lata suggested beginning by

taking some small steps, one at a time. I followed her advice and with her blessings began the endeavour.

(continued on page 7)

EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

Articles submitted to the Conch must contain 200 words or less and must 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 between the 1st and 14th of each month. Articles and photos must include the names of the author and photographer. Your name will appear exactly as you submit it.

EDITORIAL BOARD:

Damodara Pandit dasa, Mandakini devi dasi, Govardhana Seva dasa, Urvasi devi dasi (Layout and Graphic Design)

For enquiries, comments or suggestions please contact www.theconchnewsletter.org



dandavats.com

Radha dasi lives on the Gold Coast with her family and regularly attends the Surfers Paradise Bhakti Centre

UPCOMING EVENTS ...



HH Bir Krishna Goswami

30 April - 2 May
Srimad Bhagavatam Class
30 April, 1 & 2 May @ 7.30 am

Home Program

30 April @ Rupa Raghunatha dasa's house 5.00 pm - 8 pm
5 Coral Fern Circuit, Murwillumbah

HARINAMA SANKIRTANA KI JAYA



Wednesdays 10.30 am

Byron Bay Hari Nama at the park opposite the Post Office.
For further details and transport information

Parama Karuna dasa
0439 280 362

Friday Evenings 6.30 pm

Bhakti Centre Surfers Paradise
bhakticentregoldcoast.com.au

Sunday Mornings

Northern NSW & Gold Coast
folkkrishna.com/program.htm
Isvara dasa 0411 825 549



HG Jaya Sila dasa & HG Vimala devi dasi

2 - 5 May
"Nurturing Krishna's Children"
The Key to Loving Relationships
Friday 3 May at the Gurukula Hall
from 5.00 pm

Srimad Bhagavatam Class

3 & 4 May @ 7.30 am

Home Program

"Vaisnava Relationships"
4 May @ Rupa Raghunatha dasa's house 5.00 pm - 8 pm
5 Coral Fern Circuit, Murwillumbah

HH Devamrita Swami

12 - 15 May
for program details go to
krishnafarm.com or contact
Damodara Pandit dasa
0415 190 313



Narasimha Chaturdasi

24 May 2013
for program details go to
krishnafarm.com or contact
Damodara Pandit dasa
0415 190 313



MAY CALENDAR

(from the online Vaisnava calender www.vaisnavacalender.com)

2 Th	Sri Abhirama Thakura—Disappearance
5 Su	Srila Vrndavana Dasa Thakura—Disappearance
6 Mo	Ekadasi (suitable for fasting) Fasting for Varuthini Ekadasi
7 Tu	Dvadasi Break fast 6.16 am - 6.44 am
10 Fr	Sri Gadadhara Pandita—Appearance
13 Mo	Candana Yatra starts (continues for 21 days)
14 Tu	Tulasi Jala Dan ends
19 Su	Srimati Sita Devi (consort of Lord Sri Rama)—Appearance Sri Madhu Pandita—Disappearance Srimati Jahnava Devi—Appearance
21 Tu	Ekadasi (suitable for fasting) Fasting for Mohini Ekadasi
22 We	Dvadasi Break fast 7.04 am - 9.56 am Rukmini Dvadasi
23 Th	Sri Jayananda Prabhu—Disappearance
24 Fr	Nrsimha Caturdasi—Appearance of Lord Nrsimhadeva (Fast today)
25 Sa	Krsna Phula Dola, Salila Vihara (Radha Krishna Flower Swing and Boat Festivals) Sri Paramesvari Dasa Thakura—Disappearance Sri Sri Radha-Ramana Devaji—Appearance Sri Madhavendra Puri—Appearance Sri Srinivasa Acarya—Appearance
29 We	Sri Ramananda Raya—Disappearance

THE BHAKTINS ARE BACK !

Part 1 by Govardhana Seva dasa

The Conch caught up recently with Bhaktin Larissa who recently returned from a trip to Sri Dhama Mayapur.

Larissa Amos, a business owner and a wellness practitioner, recounts her journey in Krishna consciousness: "The first time I went to Govindas in Perth during 2011, Hridoy Caitanya dasa from Mayapur was there, and Krishna arranged for us to speak for many hours! He told me all about Krishna, Srila Prabhupada, the ISKCON movement and Sri Dhama Mayapur. He gave me such wonderful, practical answers to questions that no one had ever been able to answer before; things I had wondered about my entire life".

"When I dropped him at the airport I couldn't help but feel jealous of this person's life and the level of renunciation and freedom in his

THE LIFE OF JAYANANDA PRABHU

(continued from page 3)

a cab driver and supported the temple by contributing all of his earnings.

Jayananda was the backbone of the Bay Area Ratha-yatra for years, and his experiences at each one are summarized in the 1977 Ratha-yatra edition of Back To Godhead magazine. Behind the scenes, Jayananda was doing everything in preparation for each festival. He would beg food, flowers and funds, buy materials and build the carts,



Jayananda Prabhu with Srila Prabhupada
Founder-acarya of the International
Society for Krishna Conciousness

Abhisheka Gupta dasa



Bhaktin Larissa at Jagannatha Mandir,
near Mayapur during her recent
pilgrimage to the Holy Dhama

heart. It was all so attractive. I tried to go back to 'normal' after this connection, but the desire to follow in the footsteps of this devotee was too strong. I started to close my business and make plans travel to Mayapur as soon as possible. I began chanting Krishna's name and associating with devotees and through many situations I was eventually led to the haven that is New Govardhana."

In October 2012 Larissa fulfilled her dream of going on pilgrimage to Mayapur. The highlights of her trip were studying with HH Bhakti Vidya Purna Maharaja and taking shelter of HH Radhanath Maharaja. Also she was able to serve Malati Mataji and Laxmimoni Mataji with massage seva. Larissa was especially inspired by the deities of Pancha Tattva and Lord Nsrinhadeva who she felt strengthened her faith in Krishna Consciousness.

Larissa says "My home in Australia will always be with Sri Sri Radha Govardhandari and Their devotees. However, only Krishna knows the future and I pray to be His instrument through it all".

(Next month in Part 2 we will catch up with Bhaktin Agata)

PLANTING SEEDS IN AUSTRALIAN PRISONS

(continued from page 5)

I contacted prison chaplains, explaining I was from IPM, and asking if I could send some books on Hinduism. The chaplains I spoke to were Christian and all of their chapel books were Christian; I was not getting a positive response and decided to take another approach.

I contacted the prison librarians and education departments, explaining I was from Gold Coast Bhakti Yoga (as we do have a Bhakti Centre here on the Gold Coast) and that I had books on yoga, meditation, karma and eastern philosophy that we'd like to donate to the prison library. Immediately I had an overwhelmingly positive response, and it was as if the prison doors opened to welcome and receive Prabhupada's books! (for the full article see dandavats.com)



news.iskcon.com



Solution to last months crossword puzzle

Across

1. Valmiki
5. Surpanakha
7. Laksman
10. Indrajit
11. Kaikeyi

Down

2. Mountain
3. Vishwamitra
4. Hanuman
6. Vanara
8. Sita
9. Jatayu