

December 2013



# THE CONCH

[www.theconchnewsletter.org](http://www.theconchnewsletter.org)

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

## NEWSLETTER

New Govardhana Community



krishnafarm.com

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

## BHAKTISIDDHANTA SARASVATI THAKURA

Ray of Vishnu

## HANUMAN HOUSE

Young & old come together

## NO MORE CHOOKS

Tofurkey – move over!

## A SPECIAL DEVOTEE

Tenacious jasmine holds on



SRILA PRABHUPADA UVACA + NIMAI AND THE BULL + KULI CATCH-UP Q&A

# SRILA BHAKTISIDDHANTA SARASWATI

By *Ambika devi dasi*

One of Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura's 10 children, Bimala Prasad appeared at Puri, in 1874, in response to his father's prayer for a ray of Vishnu to assist him in his preaching mission.

At seven years old, Bimala Prasad had memorised the entire *Bhagavad-gita* and could explain its verses.



Image: <http://theharekrishnamovement.org>

*Kedarnath Datta (Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura) with young son Bimala Prasad (Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati).*

By 25, he was well versed in Sanskrit, mathematics and astronomy, and had published a book and many articles.

At 26, he took *diksha* from Gaura Kisor das Babaji, the emblem of renunciation, who, although extremely reluctant to accept him, finally agreed when Srila Bhaktisiddhanta decided to give up his life rather than be refused shelter.

Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura began strongly preaching Lord Chaitanya's message, soundly defeating *mayavadis*, caste *brahmanas* and bogus *babajis* wherever they challenged Vaishnava *siddhanta*.

In 1918, after taking *sannyasa*, he founded the Gaudiya Math during the war. He used the printing press to spread Krishna consciousness. Initiating many highly educated disciples, he founded 64 temples and published many Vaishnava books.

Known as the *simha* (lion) guru because he did not compromise, he was also described as a living encyclopedia, and as a *srutidhara*, or one who remembers by hearing once.



Image: [gosai.com](http://gosai.com)

*Front row centre: Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura.*

At the same time, Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura was very kind and merciful, and used to address his disciples as 'prabhu' (master). He liked to lead *sankirtan* parties, which would stop the traffic in Calcutta and Puri.

His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada met him in 1922, when he was requested by Srila Bhaktisiddhanta to preach Lord Chaitanya's message to the English-speaking world. The formal initiation took place in 1933.

Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati left this world in December 1936, surrounded by his disciples, after instructing them to preach Lord Chaitanya's mission tirelessly, to never give up their service and to chant humbly, without desire.

His body was placed in *samadhi* in Sridham Mayapur. 🕉️

Source: Information from *A Ray of Vishnu* by Rupa Vilasa dasa.

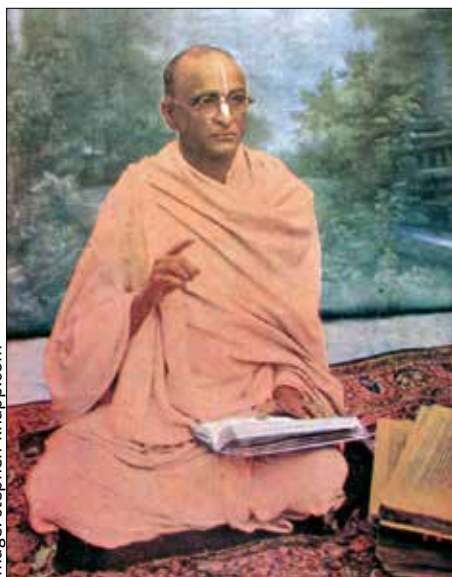


Image: [stephen-knapp.com](http://stephen-knapp.com)

*Known as the simha (lion) guru Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati was known as a living encyclopedia.*

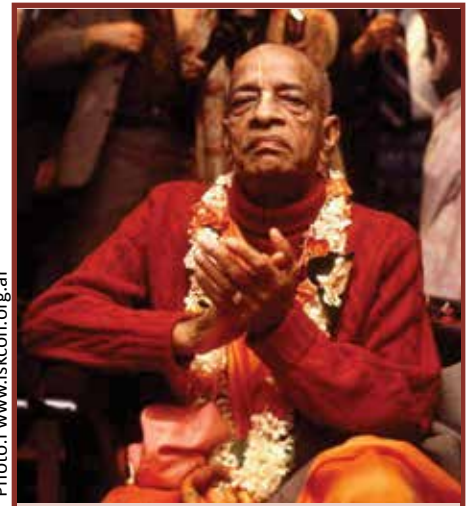


Photo: [www.iskcon.org](http://www.iskcon.org)

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

## *Srila Prabhupada Uvaca*

My Guru Maharaja was a very great scholar, and his Guru Maharaja, from a literary point of view, he could not even sign his name, Gaura-kisora dasa Babaji Maharaja. And Bhaktivinoda Thakura asked Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura to accept Gaura-kisora dasa Babaji Maharaja as spiritual master: "You go and take your initiation from Gaura-kisora dasa Babaji Maharaja".

So he thought "I am a great scholar, and I am son of a magistrate [Bhaktivinoda Thakura] [and who is a] great Vaishnava. He'll be very much pleased to accept me."

Of course, he was very much pleased. But in the beginning he refused ... Of course, that is only show. He was not proud. Just to teach us. Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati explained, "I was [a] little proud. So I was thrice refused by Guru Maharaja".

So [the] scholarship is not a qualification of becoming [a] devotee. That is Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's teaching. Scholarship may help, but it is not necessary ... one should be humble and meek and follow the instruction of the spiritual master. This is real qualification.

Srila Prabhupada lecture on *Caitanya-Caritamra*, 13 March, 1974, Vrindavana.

Cover: [www.iskconpath.org](http://www.iskconpath.org)  
[www.iskcondesiretree.net](http://www.iskcondesiretree.net)

# BHAKTI FILMS, KI JAYA!

By Damodara Pandit dasa

Films on *bhakti* filling up cinemas? Yes, it is happening. In the Tweed Valley, Australia, local devotees have just celebrated the second annual 'Bhakti Short Film Fest' held in the local Murwillumbah Regent Cinema. Guests packed the cinema to watch 10 new release devotional short films.

"The turn out was quite amazing," said Ken, the cinema manager. "These days we struggle to get attendances with all the big blockbuster Hollywood spectaculars, but these Hare Krishna film nights are fabulous. People are interested to see real art that has meaning and relevance."

The 10 films selected were all new releases and all represented very different film genres. There was the beautiful animated film *Whispers of Truth* by young Australian devotee filmmaker Bhaktine Hilary. *Kung Fu Monks* showcased Mayapur Gurukula's Kung Fu training program, and was a film the *gurukula* boys themselves produced.

Also shown was a very sweet Radha Krishna pastime, *Sanatana's Samadhi*, which was shot on location in the Tweed on beautiful New Govardhana Farm. Also featured was an award-winning film on 'Many faiths, One Peace' called *R.E.S.P.E.C.T* by Puja devi dasi (Tina Lashand) and fellow student Mai Yang.

The night concluded with *An Astonishing Temple*, which is a documentary made by Deva Gaura Hari dasa on the history, design and construction process of Mayapur's Temple of Vedic Planetarium. Sadbhujada was personally present to then invite all guests to visit the holy land of Sridhama Mayapur and get involved in the project.

There will be a Bhakti Short Film Festival held in Mayapur in February 2014. For more details – or if you would like to have a Bhakti Short Film Festival in your own town or Temple – contact Damodara Pandit dasa: dpddas@hotmail.com



The billboard displaying the recent Bhakti Film Fest.



Ishan dasa from Kung Fu Monks.



Sadbhujada, Sri Hari Bhakti devi dasi and others enjoy prasadam before the films.



The audience assembles.



Ken the Regent Cinema manager serves at the counter.

# NO MORE CHOOKS

By Mukunda Goswami

Tofurky, move over.

One company in the US is now producing and selling fake chicken meat. The products are made from soya and peas, thus avoiding stem-cell technology. The company, Beyond Meat, is located in Columbia, Missouri and is run by 42-year-old Ethan Brown, a vegan and environmental protection adherent.

Beyond Meat now ships its products to 39 US states, as well as to Vancouver, BC, Canada. Artificial chicken strip products were first used only by retail prepared-food departments, but now Beyond Meat sells directly to consumers.

According to best-selling author, Alton Brown (no relation to Ethan), a host on *The Food Network*, Beyond Meat has almost completely solved the texture problem, thus significantly transcending gluten, tofu and other meat substitutes. Alton Brown (a carnivore) has rigorously examined Beyond Meat products in his own test kitchens. The results? "Most impressive," he says.

"We're obsessed with perfectly replacing the sensory experience of animal protein," says Beyond Meat's Ethan Brown.

Beyond Meat was formed in 2009, with the University of Missouri becoming a partner. The company is now working on a beef analogue.

For more information, go to <http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2013/09/fakemeat/>



The target market? Meat-eaters who want to cut back.

The turn out was quite amazing ... Hare Krishna film nights are fabulous."

Photography: Trevore Gore

Photo: www.wired.com

# A VERY SPECIAL DEVOTEE

by *Padma Devi Dasi*

It is easy to identify devotees of Radharani and Krishna when they wear devotional clothing, chant Hare Krishna and visit Their Lordships' temple. It is less easy to recognise devotees who appear in other forms, such as those who take birth in non-human bodies. Yet Srila Prabhupada assures us that "there are devotees in all fields of life, amongst human beings, among demigods, among plants, amongst trees, among animals, among insects. Everywhere, Krishna has got His relationship." (*Srimad-Bhagavatam* lecture, Los Angeles, 1974).

On New Govardhana farm, one very special devotee in the body of a plant is our jasmine bush to the right of the path leading down towards the goldfish pond. This bush has

been serving our Lordships for more than 20 years, producing flowers for *pujaris* to pick almost every day of the year.

In winter, when most flower-producing bushes withhold their bounty due to low temperatures, this jasmine bush never fails to bring forth some sparkling white fragrant flowers for Their Lordships to enjoy.

Although this jasmine bush has had the opportunity to leave her body many times due to extreme weather conditions; by being heavily pruned by gardeners; from old age; and also at times from a lack of general care – she has somehow always survived so she can continue serving Sri Sri Radha-Govardhanadhari. All glories to such special devotees! 🙏



A very dedicated and tenacious devotee of Sri Sri Radha-Govardhanadhari.



Dazzling white fragrant jasmine flowers for our Lordships' enjoyment.

# DEPARTURE OF A DEVOTEE

By *Mandakini devi dasi*

Apramaya dasa left his body in Cairns on 22 October 2013, aged 47, after succumbing to skin cancer.

Apra was born in the east end of London and emigrated to Cairns, Australia, with his parents when he was eight years old. It was there in the mid-eighties that he met the devotees.

Besides serving in Cairns temple, Apra spent part of his devotional life in Brisbane, Melbourne and on Ramai Swami's travelling bus. From 1991 until 1993 he was an *ashrama* teacher at New Govardhana.

He loved to read Srila Prabhupada's books, especially the *Bhagavad-gita* and had a great memory for *slokas*. Devotees remember him as being humble, friendly, jovial and enthusiastic.

During his last days he chanted constantly, especially prayers to Lord Nrsimhadeva.

Pictures of Lord Krishna and Srila Prabhupada were on display at the funeral ceremony, and a recording of Prabhupada chanting played throughout most of the proceedings.

Attending devotees were Braja Jivan dasa, Abhimanyu Atkinson, Jaya Scott and Sudama Scott. The eulogy was spoken by Braja Jivan. 🙏

# IN FOCUS - BRHAT MRDANGA



Brhat Mrdanga dasa celebrating Ratha-yatra at New Govardhana.

By *Govardhana Seva dasa*

Brhat Mrdanga's first association with Krishna consciousness was as a little boy watching devotees on *harinama*, at Sunnybank, in Brisbane, which he still remembers vividly.

Before he came to ISKCON he worked as a boilermaker/blacksmith. In addition, he also used to paint designs on t-shirts with an airbrush and sell them at the markets.

Brhat received a *Bhagavad-gita* while on the streets in 1994 and began reading it about a year later. With his interest aroused, he started attending the Sunday feast programmes and sometimes he would pitch in and help with the pot washing in the kitchen and whatever else was needed.

His interest continued developing, and he received initiation from Bhakti Tirtha Swami in 1999, receiving his second initiation a year later. Brhat's services at the temple were many and varied including maintenance

(welding and repairs), cooking for the Sunday feasts, *pujari* work in the Temple, purchasing food supplies and lots of other jobs that were required.

He is now cooking for the WWOOFers a few days a week, and does some maintenance work for Maha-mantra when required. He also assists with the Cow Protection Programme and can often be seen attending our four-legged mothers and fathers around New Govardhana. His regular cow *seva* is to bring the dairy herd home each day to the night paddock at the *goshalla*.

When asked about his ambitions in Krishna consciousness, his reply was: "I would like to develop *bhakti* in my services". 🙏

# KULI CATCH-UP Q&A

By Mandankini devi dasi

This issue, we interview New Govardhana resident Dhruvananda dasa.

**Md: Please tell us about your gurukula experience and memories of the farm?**

Dd: We moved to New Govardhana from Melbourne in 1986 when I was two years old. I spent a very happy childhood here. That was the best time of my life. I had so much fun with festivals, bush adventures, and loving relationships with the teachers and community. I attended *gurukula* for five years before moving on to a local public school.

**Md: What did you do when you finished school?**

Dd: I left school early and took up a trade as a house painter. By the time I was 21, I started to feel totally disappointed with the material experience. There was a great need within me to feel fulfilled in my life. It was then that I decided to join the *ashrama* at the Melbourne temple.

After some time, Devamrita Swami sent me to Sydney to join a book distribution team. I did that service six days a week for two years, along with heaps of scriptural study.

**Md: How did you come to move to the farm again?**

Dd: I met and married my wife, Dhanesvari, in Sydney. We decided it would be nice to settle in a devotee community and raise our children in a mood of simple living and high thinking.

**Md: How is life on the farm now?**

Dd: We now have our first child, Suryani Dayalu. My wife's parents stay with us and we live together peacefully. They have been practising devotees for more than 30 years and have lots of life experience that we benefit from. We help take care of them in their older years, and they assist us practically and by sharing their wisdom.

We have a big garden to look after, and we also engage in temple service. This includes making garlands, cleaning, *aratis* and cooking.

**Md: Any other plans for the future?**

Dd: Absolutely! I am doing a Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Energy Management. I feel this qualification will be most beneficial in helping our movement and indeed the world, and very much in line with Srila Prabhupada's vision. When I finish I intend to study education so that I can have more tools to serve others. It feels very satisfying now that I am following my inclination and taking positive steps to follow my natural *varna*. 🐾



Above: Dhruvananda having a study break with daughter Suryani Dayalu. Below: Dhruvananda and Vedavyasa – 'brothers of the brush' at work.



## NIMAI & THE BULL – A VALUABLE LESSON

By Kishori devi dasi

He was lying on his side in the paddock shaded by a tent, soft hay beneath his body. A big, majestic creature ... now so helpless. Vasu the bull was dying.

That first visit, Nimai, my six-year-old son, and I performed *kirtana*, patted him and took the dust from his hoof on our heads.

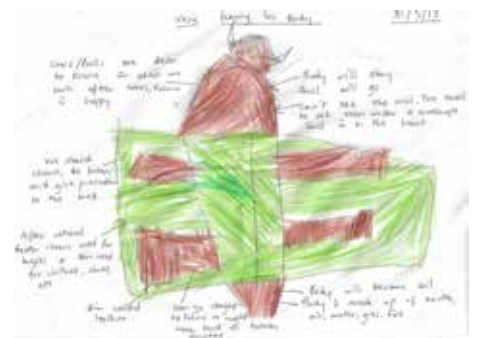
Mother Urvasi explained that Vasu loved hearing Krishna's Vrindavana pastimes, and we know that devotees aspiring to reach Krishna's abode must remember Him at the time of death.

Vasu was preparing to leave his body in a holy place while hearing the *maha-mantra* and Krishna's pastimes. Such a departure meant he would return to Krishna or take a high human birth.

Nimai was full of questions. What was Vasu's destination? What would happen to his body? What does the soul look like?

When we got home, he drew a picture (right) of Vasu lying down covered by his blanket. Is death painful? Was my baby sister a bull in her last life? On our second visit, we again chanted. Mothers Urvasi, Gita

and Bhaktine Alyssa had been keeping a constant vigil. Vasu left peacefully through his mouth as Urvasi chanted to him – a glorious departure. 🐾

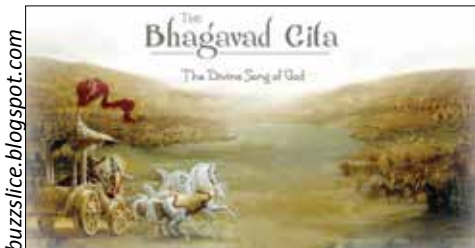


Drawing of Vasu by Nimai (6 years old).

# ADVENT OF THE BHAGAVAD-GITA

By Govardhana Seva dasa

December 13 is the anniversary that commemorates the day when Lord Sri Krishna spoke the *Bhagavad-gita* to His friend and disciple Arjuna. This took place at the beginning of the epic war at Kurukshetra, between the warring families of the Kurus and the Pandavas. Kurukshetra is now commonly known as Jyotisar Tirtha.



Lord Krishna and His friend and disciple Arjuna between the two armies.

Imagine the scene of the battle. On the western side were the seven *akshauhinis* of the Pandavas, facing the 11 *akshauhinis* of the Kauravas in the east. Each *akshauhini* consisted of 21,870 chariots, 21,870 elephants, 65,610 horses and 109,350 men. It was in this incredible environment that Lord Krishna began relating to Arjuna the *Bhagavad-gita*, explaining the concise conclusion of the millions of verses in all the Vedic scriptures. In just 18 chapters, containing 700 verses, Lord Krishna answered all the questions about the duties of the living entity.

The *Bhagavad-gita* should be studied in the same mood as it was heard by Arjuna. Lord Krishna declares that He is revealing this most confidential knowledge to Arjuna because he is not envious and he is a friend. So we must read and understand the *Bhagavad-gita* in the mood of accepting the position of Krishna as God. This knowledge is never revealed to one who reads it in a challenging and speculative mood.

Distribution of *Bhagavad-gita* on this day is also a very auspicious activity to perform.

Abandon all varieties of religion and just surrender unto Me. I shall deliver you from all sinful reactions. Do not fear.” *Bhagavad-gita* 18:66

# SRI SARANGA THAKURA TIROBHAVA

By Urvasi devi dasi

Sri Krsnadasa Kaviraja Goswami has written in the *Caitanya-Caritamrta, Adi Lila*, 10.113: “Ramadasa, Kavidatta, Sri Gopala dasa, Bhagavat acarya, and Thakura Saranga dasa were all important branches of the Sri Caitanya tree.”

Sri Saranga Murari Thakura lived on the banks of the Ganges in Modradrumadvipa, Nabadwipa dhama, in what is now known as Mamagacchi.

It is said that Saranga Murari Thakura had vowed never to accept any disciples. But again and again he received messages from Chaitanya Mahaprabhu encouraging him to make disciples. Finally he decided to accept a disciple, saying: “I shall make a disciple of the first person I see tomorrow and shall initiate him into the *mantra*”.

The next morning he went to bathe in the Ganges, and as he was bathing he touched a dead body with his foot. Grabbing hold of the dead body, he brought it to life again and asked, “Who are you? What is your *gotra*?”

The man gradually regained consciousness, and finding himself in the presence of a great soul, bowed down before Saranga Thakura.

At last the man who had risen from the dead by the power of Saranga Thakura identified his caste and family background, saying, “My name is Murari. Have mercy on me!” At that time, Saranga Thakura accepted him as his disciple and gave him *mantra-diksa*. It is for this reason that he became famous as Saranga Murari Thakura.

According to Kavikarnapura’s *Gaura-ganodesa-dipika*, “That person who was formerly the *gopi* called Nandimukhi in Vraja-lila appeared in the pastimes of Sri Chaitanya as Saranga Thakura.”

Reference: [www.iskcondesiretree.net/profiles/blogs/saranga-thakura](http://www.iskcondesiretree.net/profiles/blogs/saranga-thakura)



Sri Sri Radha Gopinatha (small Deities on the right) were worshiped by Srila Saranga Thakura. Sri Sri Radha Madana-Gopal (large Deities in centre) beloved Deities of Srila Vasudeva Datta. Sri Sri Gaura-Gadadhara (Deities on the left) are the Deities of Srila Puri Gosvami.

Sri Saranga Thakura’s Tirobhava (disappearance day) is on the 13th day of the dark moon in the month of Agrahayana, which falls on Sunday, 1 December 2013.

# HANUMAN HOUSE

By Mandakini devi dasi

It was on Srila Prabhupada's Vyasa Puja day that Sridas Johnson searched his soul for a service that he could offer with satisfaction to His Divine Grace. Out of the blue, he was struck by the concept of establishing a recreational facility at New Govardhana.



Family man Sridas, with wife, Bhakti devi dasi, & children Dhananjaya and Savitri.

The facility would service the youth and provide an outlet for older members of the community to pass on their valued skills and experience to the younger generation. It would be a place for the young men to associate with each other, engage in sports and fitness activities, and become adept in various trade skills while also gaining practical knowledge.

Already himself a seasoned athlete, Sridi considered building a clubhouse and installing a gym. As he enthusiastically commented, "We'll build it, and everything will all come together".

New Govardhana director, Ajita dasa, was encouraging and urged Sridi to set his dream in motion by first forming a committee.

Former gurukuli peers, Dhruvananda, Nitai, Syama and Advaita were soon on board. A mission statement was

drafted and Hanuman House was born! One of the House rules would be no mobile phones or television, so the focus is on more wholesome activities like archery, triathlons, competition games, sports, camping and other exciting adventures.

The location for the proposed building has been chosen near the *goshalla*, with convenient access to the river and a large field.

Besides using his own personal finances, there have been generous donations from Parama Karuna dasa, Syama McRae and pledges from other devotees, the group is now able to commence the first stage of the project, which is pouring a 7m x 10m extendable concrete slab.

Timber trusses have been donated and a local firm has pledged cost price materials. Other donated items include a forge, mud-brick making machine and a gym.



Sridas starts the formwork on the Hanuman House project.

As this extremely worthy project requires much support and assistance, monetary help would be greatly appreciated. Donations of gym and camping equipment, tools, games, sporting goods, etc., would also be useful.

If you would like to help in any way, please contact Sridas on 0409 068 006. 📞

# PIZZA NIGHT AT THE KRISHNA VILLAGE

By Henrike

The Krishna Village is celebrating its 3rd birthday with Italian gourmet pizzas from our wood-fired oven, fresh juices and a blissful *kirtana* by the campfire.

Come and join us on Friday, 13 December from 5pm till late – everybody is welcome!

The event will serve as a fundraiser. Each cent paid for pizzas and juices will go towards our new orchard.

We are planning to plant at least 600 new trees, so in a few years we will be fully self-sustainable with regards to fresh fruit.

Plant your own tree! Come before sunset and plant a tree in the name of your family or friends at New Govardhana.

We will have prepared the planting spots, and you can choose from a variety of trees in return for a small donation.

And finally ... if you happen to have leftover tree or veggie seedlings sitting in your backyard, please contact Henrike and Madreya via [krishnafarmveggies@gmail.com](mailto:krishnafarmveggies@gmail.com) – we will be happy to put them to good use! 🌱

## CORRECTION

On page 2 (Srila Prabhupada Uvaca) of the November issue of *The Conch*, the purport to *Srimad-Bhagavatam* 10.15.2 was not Srila Prabhupada's actual words, rather the work was the done by authorised Srila Prabhupada disciples. We apologise for the error.

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

*The Conch* is your community newsletter, and we invite you to submit articles for publication. Articles should be 200 words or less and supplied in MS Word via email to [newgovconch@gmail.com](mailto:newgovconch@gmail.com). Photographs must be in JPG format. Please provide the name of the author and

the photographer. Anonymous submissions will not be published.

Deadline is the 12th of each month for publication in future editions. Occasionally a submission could be held over to a later edition. All submissions may be edited, proofread or rejected without notice.



**EDITORIAL BOARD:**  
Krishnarupa devi dasi (ACBSP)  
Damodara Pandit dasa  
Mandakini devi dasi  
Govardhana Seva dasa  
Urvasi devi dasi  
(layout and graphic design)  
Trevor Gore (photography)  
For enquiries, comments or suggestions,  
contact: [newgovconch@gmail.com](mailto:newgovconch@gmail.com)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura Tirobhava Mahotsava (Disappearance Day)

Saturday, 21 December 2013

10.00 am	Bhajan and readings
11.45 am	Bhoga offering
11.50 am	Puspanjali
12.00 pm	Guru puja, arati & kirtana
12.30 pm	Prasada



Photo: www.krishnapath.org

### HARI-NAMA SANKIRTANA KI JAYA



Photo: http://old.mayapur.com

*In Rajapur, near Mayapur, Lord Jagannatha, Lord Balarama are wearing Their new starched cloth, sitting on Their lavishly decorated altar. Each year the decorations are increasing more and more. In this picture, the altar appears to be like a Vrindavana forest. Odana Sasthi falls on Sunday, 8 December 2013.*

#### Wednesdays 10.30 am

Byron Bay hari-nama at the park opposite the Post Office. For further details and transport information, contact  
**Parama Karuna dasa**  
0439 280 362

#### Friday Evenings 6.30 pm

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

#### Sunday Mornings

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

## STARCHED TO PERFECTION

By Urvashi devi dasi

Odana Sashti is a festival that marks the beginning of winter. During the Odana Sasthi festival the devotees dress Lord Jagannatha and Lord Balarama with starched cloth. This ceremony indicates that from that day forward a winter covering should be given to the Lord. That covering is directly purchased from a weaver, and freshly purchased cloth is usually starched to preserve it.

According to the *Archana-marga*, a cloth should first be washed to remove all the starch, and then it can be used to cover the Lord. On this occasion, by the desire of Lord Jagannatha, His servants dress Him in new, starched clothes.

Sri Pundarika Vidyanidhi, a close associate of Lord Chaitanya's, once upon seeing that the Deities were being offered starched garments became critical towards the servants of Lord Jagannatha. When Pundarika was thus speaking in this way, Swarupa Damodara tried to explain that the characteristics of the Supreme Lord are beyond the jurisdiction of worldly etiquette, and encouraged Pundarika not to relinquish his critical thoughts.

Swarup Damodara's advice fell on deaf ears, so Lord Jagannatha and Balarama enacted the pastime of appearing to Pundarika in a dream that evening and slapping him on his cheeks. Thus Jagannatha destroyed the sinful mentality of criticising the behavior of the Supreme Lord's servants by his supreme mercy.

Source: <http://old.mayapur.com/node/1628>



## DECEMBER CALENDAR

(from Vaishnava calendar [www.vaisnavacalendar.com](http://www.vaisnavacalendar.com))

1 Sun	Sri Saranga Thakura – Disappearance
8 Sun	Odana Sasthi
13 Fri	Ekadasi (suitable for fasting) Moksada Ekadasi Advent of Srimad Bhagavad-gita
14 Sat	Dvadasi break fast 5.43 am – 10.21 am
17 Tue	Katyayani vrata ends
21 Sat	Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura – Disappearance
29 Sun	Ekadasi (suitable for fasting) Saphala Ekadasi Sri Devananda Pandita – Disappearance
30 Mon	Dvadasi break fast 5.51 am – 8.30 am
31 Tue	Sri Mahesa Pandita – Disappearance Sri Uddharana Datta Thakura – Disappearance