

January/February
2014



THE CONCH

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



ADVAITA ACHARYA
Summons the Lord

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A Photo Story

Photo: www.mayapur.com

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SRI ADVAITA ACHARYA

By *Ambika devi dasi*

In the *Adi-lila Chaitanya Charitamrita*, Advaita Acharya is described as:

“The incarnation of Maha-Visnu ... Because He is non-different from Hari, the Supreme Lord, He is called Advaita, and because He propagates the cult of devotion, He is called Acharya. He is the Lord and the incarnation of the Lord’s devotee. Therefore I take shelter of Him. Sri Advaita Acharya is directly the Supreme Personality of Godhead Himself. His glory is beyond the conception of ordinary living beings.”

He appeared in 1434 in Sri Hatta, Bengal. His father, Kuvera Pandit, was an exalted *brahmana*. His mother was a faithful devotee. His spiritual master was Madhavendra Puri.

His adult home was the meeting place for the *Vaishnavas*. Wonderful *kirtanas* were performed daily, along with *Srimad Bhagavatam* and *Bhagavad-gita* classes.

Despairing at the increasing materialism of the public and the resident scholars of Navadvip, Advaita Acharya intensely desired Lord Krishna to advent Himself.

Worshipping Krishna with *Tulasi* leaves and Ganges water, crying incessant tears of love, accepting vows and austerities and roaring with loud cries which penetrated the covering of the universe, Advaita Acharya sincerely pleaded with the Lord to come and give the treasure of love of Godhead freely to the people of the world.

It is through the unlimited mercy of Advaita Acharya that Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu came to liberate the fallen souls of *Kali-yuga*.

Advaita Acharya is also described in the *Chaitanya Charitamrita* as “the spiritual master of all devotees ... who descended to introduce the path of bhakti”.

Advaita Acharya was an ideal householder.

When Lord Chaitanya relocated to Puri, Advaita Acharya travelled there annually for *Ratha-yatra* and remained there in His association for four months of each year. He lived to 125 years. It is further described in *Chaitanya Charitamrita* that “Anyone

who hears about and glorifies Him becomes glorified himself”. Let us therefore remember and praise the glories of Sri Advaita Acharya. 🙏

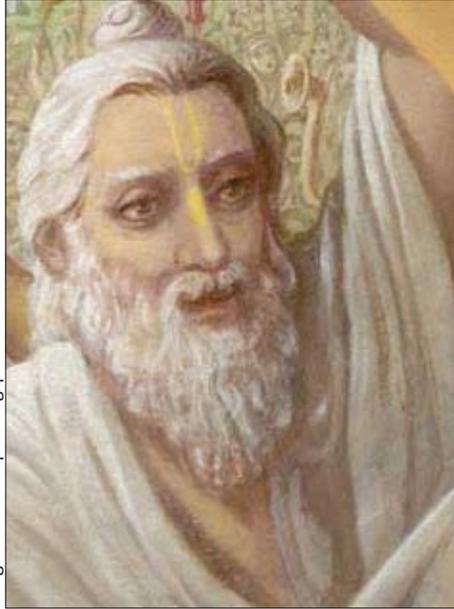


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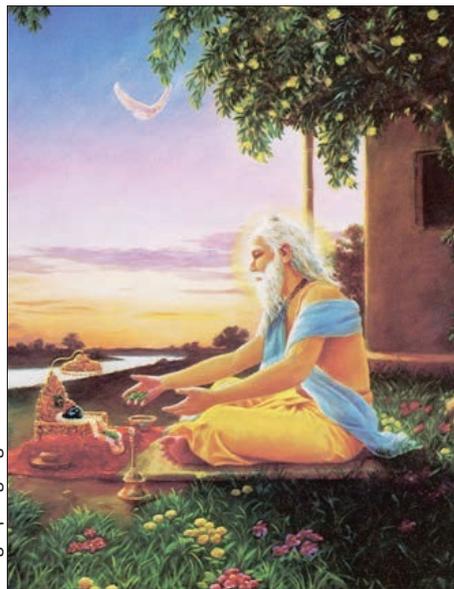


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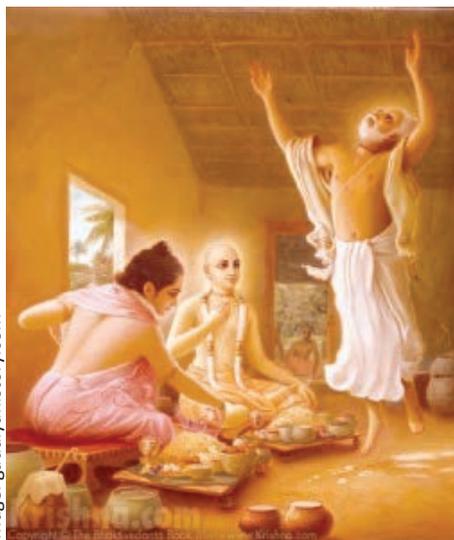
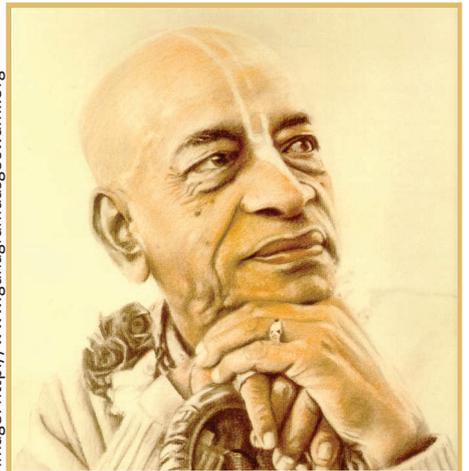


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ISKCON Founder-Acharya His Divine Grace
A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

SrilaPrabhupadaUvaca

*advaitam harinadvaitad
acaryam bhakti-samsanat
bhaktavataaram isam tam
advaitacaryam asraye*

So gradually the author is offering respect, *shri-krishna-chaitanya prabhu-nityananda shri-advaita*. He has already offered respect to Lord Chaitanya and Lord Nityananda. Now it is the turn for Shri Advaita Acharya. So *advaitam*, non-different, expansion of Mahavishnu. Therefore He is *Vishnu-tattva*. He is not *jiva-tattva*. Therefore, He is Advaita.

Advaita achyuta anadi ananta-rupam. Krishna has got unlimited number of expansions, expansion, expansion of the expansion, then expansion of the expansion, in this way. So Advaita Acharya is expansion of Krishna, it is already explained. Therefore He is called *advaitam*, and *acharyam bhakti-samsanat*. This is the business of *acharya*, to spread *bhakti* cult. *Acharyam mam vijaniyeta karhichit*. It is said by the Lord that “You should accept the *acharya* ...”

Acharya means one who transmits *bhakti* cult. *Bhakti-samsanat*, spreading, *gosthy-anandi*. One who is not spreading – he is cultivating Krishna consciousness for his personal benefit in a secluded place, sitting and chanting – that is also nice, but he’s not *acharya*.

Acharya means he must spread, *Gosthy-anandi*. *Bhajanandi*, *gosthy-anandi*. So generally, *gosthy-anandi* means one who wants to increase the number of devotees. He’s called *gosthy-anandi*. And one who is self-satisfied, that “Let me do my own duty”, he is called *bhajanandi*.

Reference: Lecture 6 April 1975, Mayapur

MOHINI'S ON COURSE

By Mandakini devi dasi

Professional artiste, Mohini Murti devi dasi, is knee-deep in study and assessments as she nears the half-way mark in her exacting visual arts course.

Enrolling at SAE College, Byron Bay in October 2012, Mohini chose Bachelor of Film Production as her major. Skills learned in this complex and accelerated course include scriptwriting, editing, lighting, digital filming and production.



Photo: Mallika DesFours

Mohini Murti devi dasi.

BHAKTI YOGIS GRADUATE

By Mandakini devi dasi

The three-month long Bhakta Training Program at New Govardhana, concluded on 24 December with six graduating students receiving certificates.

Course facilitator, Uddhava Priya dasa, held classes three times a week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 4.00 pm – 6.00 pm. A dozen participants attended, including new *bhaktas*, congregational members and WWOOFers.

Working with material from three books entitled, Devotional Practices, Philosophy and Theology, and Vaishnava Culture, the students concluded the study of each module with 15 questions. Various devotees were invited to come along to the meetings to share their particular area of expertise.

Asesa Sadhini devi dasi spoke on Relationships; Nrsimha Kavaca dasa instructed the group in all aspects of cleanliness; Gokula dasa lectured on Simple Living and High Thinking.

Mohini, who hails from the austere Canadian climate of Calgary, has always been most appreciative of Australia. With her love of Vedic culture, and keen regard for the dynamic New Govardhana project, she nurtures a strong desire to document important events in its ongoing development. Says Mohini, "Others need to know what is happening in our movement. There is so much going on here. This farm is such a positive example to the rest of the world." 🐟



Photo: Yumi Lin

A graduation ceremony was held in the Gurukula Hall and Arts Centre. Pictured above, Jayadeva dasa, Krsnaraja Foward, Ajita dasa, Uddhava Priya dasa, Bhaktin Trace, Bhaktin Jue and Bhaktin Larissa.

MUSICAL HOUSES

By Govardhana Seva dasa

Then the music stopped! ... and the recent house moves by several devotees became like a game of musical chairs. In mid-December 2013, Gaura Shakti devi dasi and Phalguna Krsna dasa moved from their residence on New Govardhana to their new home in Riveroak Drive on the Hundred Hills Estate, in Murwillumbah.

Almost immediately New Govardhana residents Gokulananda Chaitanya dasa and family moved from the house nearest the school into Gaura and Phalguna's vacated house.

Vinod Bihari dasa and his wife Mahananda devi dasi decided to relocate to New Govardhana and moved into the house nearest the school.

While all this was going on Urvasi devi dasi's new cabin at New Govardhana was completed, and she recently moved from Trayadisa dasa's loft into her new home.



Photo: Urvasi devi dasi

Urvasi's new cabin is located in the village of Aniyora and is known as 'Gopala Vasthana' or the dwelling place of Lord Gopala.

Ganga devi dasi and her children moved from her old house in River Street, Murwillumbah to Hari Bhakti Dey's former house in Dorothy Street.

Following that, Subal Nitai dasa and family moved from their accommodation in Murwillumbah to their new home at Somerville Circuit, on the Hundred Hills Estate.

... and now the music has started again – stay tuned! 🐟



THANKS FROM THE TOVP

By Sri Hari Bhakti devi dasi

On behalf of the Temple of Vedic Planetarium (TOVP) team, I would like to thank all the devotees that have given their pledges to the TOVP building project. Your funds have been sent to Mayapur.

I am continuing to collect pledges here in New Govardhana and hoping to go to Brisbane and Sydney in the near future.

Thank you for supporting the Temple of Vedic Planetarium. 🙏

GOSHALA GOSS

By Urvasi devi dasi

Since our last column, a Gir calf was born to Sumukhi. Her name is Chintamani and she is adorable. It was not an easy birth with the vet having to come to assist. Gentle and inquisitive, yet playful and adventurous, 'Chintzy' has become an inseparable companion for Radhika, a three-month-old Gir heifer whose mother Raga abandoned her at birth.

Sumukhi is a very protective mother, and for the first few weeks after Chintzy's birth it was not possible to get very close to her. However, Chintzy has now become more independent, and she and Radhika can often be seen up to all sorts of shenanigans. They like to play head butting, and even get involved in the play of the older members of their family. In fact, Radhika went head to head with Madhu (her father) one day recently and Chintzy was not far behind.



Photo: Trevor Gore

Radhika is bottle-fed twice a day by Urvasi devi dasi.

Radhika is being nursed in the mornings by Lila, who herself has a calf named Ramanuja, and she is also given supplemental bottle-feeds twice a day. This is a rewarding service and we invite those who may be interested to contact Urvasi devi dasi for the opportunity to hand-feed a very special little soul. Feeding times are 1.30 pm and 7.30 pm each day. Radhika has been sponsored by Shridas Johnson and family, and Chintamani is sponsored by Brenda, Rani and Asha Foran.

We have many more cows that require sponsorship. Please contact Venu Gopal dasa to become involved in this service.

It is with much sadness that The Cow Shed Crew informs Conch readers that Bruce the Goose left his body recently. The cause of his death is not clear. According to Brhat Mrdanga dasa who found him injured the day

before he died, Bruce may have sustained injuries to his back and neck.

On a previous occasion, more than a year ago, Venu Gopal dasa noticed the dairy cows had Bruce surrounded and were giving him 'what for'. After this altercation, he needed his wounds tended to and a period of recuperation in a separate paddock.

Upon investigation, Gita Govinda devi dasi revealed that prior to this incident she had seen Bruce walk up behind the cows and pull their tails with his beak. It can only be surmised that he pulled one too many tails, and the girls 'took matters into their own hooves'.

A quick note about gates. It is very important that gates at New Govardhana are kept closed at all times. A recent incident almost cost one calf its life, owing to a gate being left open. Sometimes it may not be evident that cows are in a paddock, so to be on the safe side, please close all gates and report any stray animals to Venu Gopal on (0411 444 934). 🙏



Photo: Urvasi devi dasi

Chintamani is our newest calf. She is part of the Gir herd at New Govardhana.



Photo: Urvasi devi dasi

Bruce the Goose was the constant companion of New Govardhana's milking herd for two and a half years.

KULI CATCH-UP

Mandakini devi dasi catches up with Madhurangi devi dasi

Q: For how long did you attend New Govardhana gurukula?

A: I started when I was five years old in 1997 and spent six years there. It was a joyful time, with lots of friends and happy memories. When I was 11, our family moved to Mayapura and I spent another four years in the *gurukula* system there.

Q: That must have been quite a change for you. Did you have any trouble adjusting?

A: Not at all. I went to a couple of schools. The first one mainly focused on teaching Vedic studies and character building. I felt quite at home, as a couple of friends from New Govardhana were already enrolled there. With the second school, the education was based on the Cambridge curriculum. I loved living in Mayapura. We were fully engaged from morning to night. There were so many festivities and always something to look forward to.

Q: How do you come to be living in Australia?

A: After completing year 10 exams in India, I went on the Polish tour for two consecutive years. It was on that second tour that I met a former classmate from Australia, Rupa Goswami Durr. We had gone through the first six years of *gurukula* together. After associating for some time, and with the blessings of our respective parents, I relocated to Australia and we became engaged when my husband proposed to me in front of Sri Sri Radha Govardhanadhari. We travelled back to Mayapura for our Vedic marriage. This took place in February 2013, in the auspicious presence of His Holiness Indrayumna Maharaja and His Holiness Jayapataka Maharaja. We then returned to Australia.

Q: What are you doing now?

A: My life is quite different here compared to India. I help out in the Burleigh Heads Govindas restaurant together with my husband. It is hard work, but it is good to be distributing *prasadam*. We manage to visit the farm at least twice a week and we also serve His Holiness Mukunda Maharaja's lunch every alternate Wednesday.

Q: How would you like to see your future unfold?

A: I would dearly hope to relocate to Mayapura eventually. The atmosphere is so spiritually surcharged there and I like the constant engagement. It is a great place to raise a family in Krishna Consciousness. Fortunately, my husband also shares my dreams. 🙏

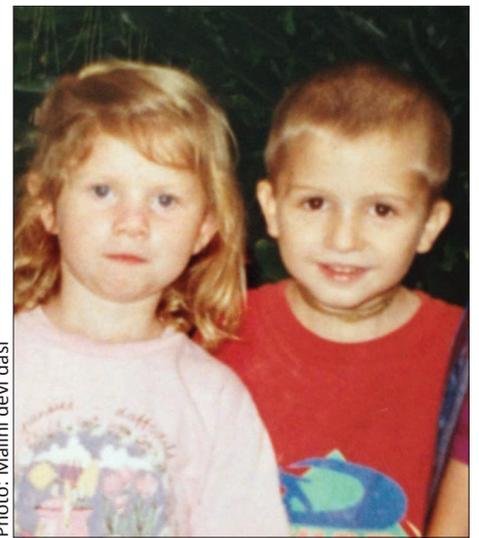


Photo: Malini devi dasi

Madhurangi and Rupa at age four.

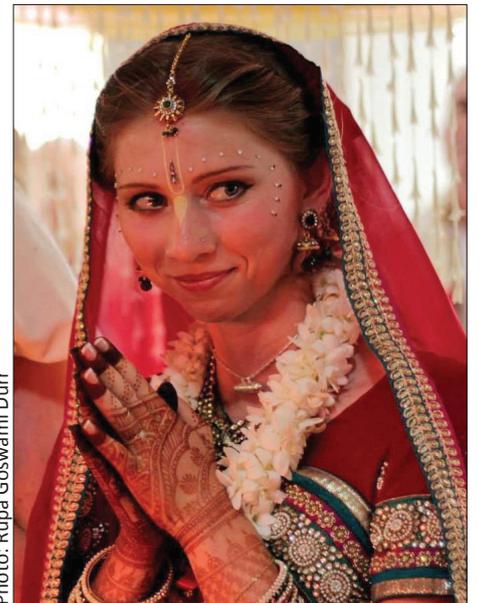


Photo: Rupa Goswami Durr

Madhurangi devi dasi at her marriage ceremony.

DID YOU KNOW ...



By Govardhana Seva dasa.

Mother of three, Ganga devi dasi works in conjunction with Malini devi dasi, the treasurer, 5 to 15 hours per week. Her duties include looking after the accounts of New Govardhana, and handling petty cash disbursements.

By liaising with the temple president and the devotees, she monitors expenses and takes any action required. She also generates income and expenditure reports of the different departments for budget planning.

Ganga also collects donations, empties the donation boxes and is responsible for the financial aspect of the cow adoption program. Besides this there is the reconciliation of some of New Govardhana accounts, processing invoices for both sales and purchases, archiving, filing and costs related to general maintenance of the office. Other duties include looking after the rentals, collecting rent and charging electricity costs. At other times she is involved in general debt collection and attends and takes minutes of the financial meetings.

When asked if she had any other regular services, she replied "I am 'on call' for temple Deity worship when devotees are away. But my main regular service is to look after my three little vibrant devotees. That is my full time job!" 🙏

THE RUSSIANS ARE STILL COMING

Padma devi dasi catches up with Uttama Sloka Prabhu.

Padma devi dasi: Are you happy to be back at New Govardhana?

Uttama Sloka dasa: Yes, sure. It is always nice to visit New Govardhana farm.

PDD: Please describe for me your current devotional service.

USD: My current service consists of travelling and preaching in 10 different countries, which include Russia, UK, USA, Canada, Australia, Singapore, Japan, India, Israel and Switzerland. I am running courses on Krishna conscious knowledge and its application to the daily lives of devotees.

I am also coordinating an international project called the Spiritual United Nations (SUN). My guru, His Holiness Indradyumna Swami is also doing some service in this regard. It was he who encouraged



Uttama Sloka dasa.

me to work on this project. The global director of SUN is His Holiness Mukunda Goswami and I am coordinating it internationally. For a couple of months a year I also travel with my spiritual master as his secretary, assisting him with various services. Each year I also spend about one month visiting certain places, according to the requirements of my *sannyasa* - training assignment.

The courses I am running for devotees are based on the Bhagavad-gita. It is quite obvious that devotees throughout the world today have additional troubles imposed upon them by the influences of *kali-yuga*.

To counter this situation, modern spiritual technologies which are perfectly in line with Bhagavad-gita principles, can be applied by devotees in accordance with the

yukta-vairagya principle, to help us to address our current challenges.

PDD: What or who has encouraged you to do this particular service?

USD: Whatever I do, the encouragement I receive comes primarily from my spiritual master, as well as a number of other senior *vaisnavas* and gurus in our society whom I regard as my *siksa* gurus. I myself have designed my Yoga of Life course that I am currently teaching.

This course is based on different themes from Bhagavad-gita and uses material from different sources from both within and outside ISKCON. Yoga of Life addresses specific personal and devotional needs of devotees.

PDD: How do you think this service may develop in the future?

USD: I am really hoping to develop courses up to a professional standard and to present these courses to the general public. I want to convey the message of Krishna consciousness through very practical means of self-help and self-development.

As far as the Spiritual United Nations project goes, our main purpose is to provide governments with spiritual solutions to the many types of dilemmas that currently face them. Within this context we can give devotees opportunities to develop and disseminate Krishna conscious technologies on a very broad scale. These have the potential to tackle serious issues within global societies. We also hope to create opportunities for devotees to maintain themselves financially through their devotional services.

At the moment many devotees have to make money through means which have nothing to do with devotional service, nor with the mode of goodness – not the best situation. We either advance together or we degrade together, because devotee association is the only platform on which everything else in Krishna consciousness stands. So unless we do something to create a better future for our members, we will not be able to fulfill Srila Prabhupada's vision, which is clearly expressed in the very first purpose of ISKCON namely, "To systematically propagate spiritual knowledge to society at large and to educate all peoples in the

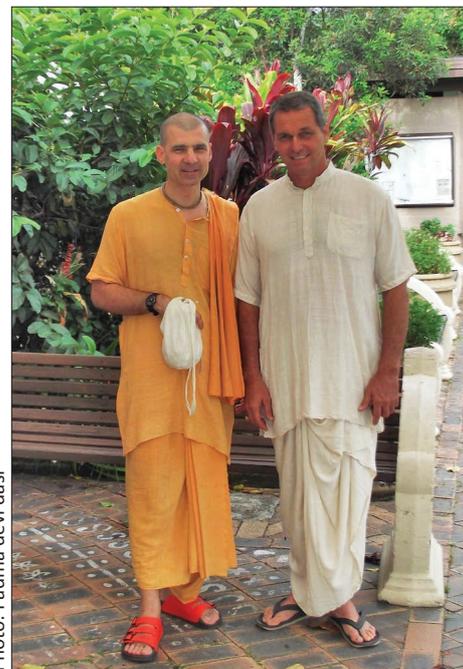


Photo: Padma devi dasi

Uttama Sloka dasa during his recent visit to New Govardhana pictured here with Ajita dasa

techniques of spiritual life in order to check the imbalance of values in life and to achieve real unity and peace."

PDD: Do you foresee that this service will continue after you take *sannyasa*?

USD: I hope so, because this is why I joined the movement. This is my life and soul – to serve devotees and to spread Krishna consciousness as much as possible. There is nothing else in this world which has any value besides that.

PDD: Do you plan to keep visiting Australia as you have been?

USD: Well it seems from the feedback I have been receiving, that devotees are finding my courses useful. As long as devotees are happy with my services, then I am happy to continue serving them.

Thank you. 🙏

CORRECTION

One of the names in the caption on page seven in the December issue of the Conch was omitted. The name was **Savitri**. We apologise for the error.

WOODFORD WOWS 'EM

By Vaisnavi devi dasi

Woodford – camping in the summer heat, long hours standing and serving out *prasadam*, sleep deprivation – one may ask why we voluntarily choose to do this. As aspiring devotees we understand that there is an unexplainable taste in serving Krishna together.

So much planning and background work goes into this huge project – transportation, *bhoga*, manpower, sleeping facilities and setting up the Govindas tent. Ajita Prabhu took good care of his crew, supplying big fans for devotees to cool off while serving at the bain-marie and providing the *ekadasi* treat of curd steaks and *subji*.

Vijaya Prabhu distributed 320 Bhagavad-gitas from his table under the Govindas tent. Book distribution *ki jaya!*

One of the highlights of Woodford was the nightly parade of Lord Jagannatha, Lord Baladeva and Lady Subhadra at the *Ratha-yatra* festival. *Gurukulis*, dressed as *gopas* and *gopis*, (clothes courtesy of Bhakti and Sridama) and together all the devotees were in an enthusiastic and lively mood. By the Lord's mercy the crowd was inspired to participate by pulling the cart ropes. Devotees greeted the New Year with *kirtana* in front of the Deities.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to Ajita Prabhu and Krsna Gana Prabhu for facilitating the devotees in this service. Devotees of all ages (Savitri the youngest) assisted the crew in distributing *lassis* and other drinks. Aja, Dhani, Kamadeva, Kalki, Nila, Kalindi, Priya, Lalita, Rohini and Ariel were some of the younger devotees serving at Woodford. Serving at Woodford with the Govindas catering crew is an experience like no other.

Please 'like' and follow "Govinda's Catering, New Govardhana" on Facebook. 



Photos: Srimivas Luxton

KALINDI'S KIRTANA

By Mandakini devi dasi

Kalindi felt sad when she overheard her parents discussing the recent catastrophe in the Philippines. She pondered deeply on the intense suffering of the families and wondered what she could possibly do to help.

Hitting on the idea of organizing a *maha kirtana* at the temple, she hastily phoned school friends Tulasi and Karuna, and a transcendental plan was hatched.

The girls, along with other *gurukula* students, had formed an all-girl band, which they named 'The Nitya Kumaris'. The group, ranging in ages from 10-14, would perform alongside New Govardhana's finest *kirtana* leaders, and offer the chanting to Their Lordships as a humble petition on behalf of the stricken Philippine people.

It was decided that the *kirtana* would continue for six hours, divided into half-hour slots.

Ten of the community's most popular and experienced kirtaneers agreed to participate, with the event melodiously taking place on 21 November 2013.

The Nitya Kumaris band was enthusiastically received by everyone.



Photography: Dhriti Gopi devi dasi



The Nitya Kumaris in action: Kalindi Cozzi, Tulasi Robson, Karuna Shakti Hooper, Vrinda Mitsiou, Surabhi Singanamala and Malini Priya Hooper.

The band consists of:

Kalindi Cozzi – lead vocalist
Tulasi Robson – *karatalas* & vocals
Karuna Shakti Hooper – flute & vocals
Vrinda Mitsiou – vocals
Surabhi Singanamala – *karatalas* & vocals
Malini Priya Hooper – *mrdanga*

All parents and community members were proud of this effort. 🙏

MERRY KRISHNA & HARI NEW YEAR

By Krsnaraja Foward

Uddhava Priya dasa and I were visiting Coles when we bumped into jolly old Saint Nick. He greeted us with a very friendly, Hare Rama, Hare Krishna. "I love you guys", said 'Santa'. He told us his daughter was once in a production of The Mahabharata, where she acted the part of Krishna's mother, Devaki.

Unfortunately, we did not have any books with us to distribute, as we were sure he would have gladly taken one.

I had the realization that I should never leave the *ashram* without having Srila Prabhupada's books in my possession. We never know whom Krishna sends along! 🙏



Photo: Unknown Source

Krsnaraja Foward, 'Santa' and Uddhava Priya dasa at Sunnyside Mall.

NANDULAL: A SPECIAL LITTLE SOUL

By Mandakini devi dasi

Two-year-old Nandulal Robson began displaying spiritual inclinations at the tender age of 12 months.

In the family household, personal bead bags were mysteriously



Photo: Mahesvari devi dasi

Little Nandu also likes to try his hand at the harmonium.

disappearing, only to be found in the toddler's tiny hand as he paced back and forth chanting the Hare Krishna *maha mantra*. With the family's recent visit to India, Nandulal now boasts his very own miniature-sized *japa* bag. He is insistent that it always accompanies him to the temple.

Without any prompting and with only the assistance of a mirror, he regularly applies *tilaka* to his forehead. Whether he is off to his twice-weekly daycare, the temple or into town, he is determined in his resolution to not appear in public without the *Vaishnava* symbol. This has sometimes resulted in distressful tears if time has not permitted his careful application of the sacred marking. Says father, Nandaraja dasa, "Whenever we set foot in the family

car to go anywhere, he immediately begins singing the Nrsimhadeva prayers and the Hare Krishna *maha mantra*. He doesn't stop until we reach our destination". 🙏



Photo: Mahesvari devi dasi

Nandu applies tilak by himself.

SNAPSHOTS



Photo: Trace Davis

(L) On Sunday, 24 November, New Govardhana received a visit from five Buddhist monks. They were from the Sera-Mey monastery in South India, where 5000 monks reside. The monks were fund-raising for a new prayer room at their monastery by constructing the beautiful Medicine Buddha Sand Mandalas at various locations in southern Queensland and northern New South Wales, including Murwillumbah.

(R) The Medicine Buddha Sand Mandala constructed by the visiting South Indian Buddhist monks at Surfers Paradise.



Photo: Grant Welsh



Photo: Dhruvananda dasa

Recently the Hanuman House project conducted a weekend of fun and adventure. While their building is not yet complete, the boys eagerly took part in a camping weekend at the site. Here Syama McRae (far right) shows the boys how to make bows from local bamboo.



Photo: Urvasi devi dasi



Photo: Urvasi devi dasi

(L) With the rainy season upon us the mornings are punctuated by the screeching of Rainbow Lorikeets as they search for the nectar of the Eucalyptus sideroxylon (Pink Iron Bark).

AJITA - DISASTER AVERTED!

By Kishori devi dasi

Ajita dasa, Director of New Govardhana, had gone to the New Mayapura farming community in France for managerial work, when he became unwell.

He did not want to cancel his 12-hour flight, or his plans to see his brother on his last day there, which also happened to be the day of Govardhana Puja. However, having received his blood test results, the devotee doctor's wife secretly cancelled his plane ticket. He was told sternly by the doctor that he would need his appendix removed as soon as possible.

On the day of Govardhana puja, Ajita went for his operation and was later told that had he not had the surgery at that time, his appendix would have ruptured. This would probably have occurred when he was aboard his 12-hour flight. A disaster averted.

It seems Krishna protected and helped his devotee every step of the way. The operation took place on Govardhana puja day. The doctor's Giriraja shila was physically present in the operating theatre and later in his hospital room while he recovered. He was carefully looked after by a devotee doctor throughout the event. "I could never have arranged it so perfectly even if I'd tried", said Ajita. 🙏



Photo: Trevor Gore

Ajita dasa.

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. 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.



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GOPAL'S GOPASTAMI FESTIVAL - KID'S KORNER

The following is an extract from a children's book, soon to be published, written by Damodara Pandit dasa and illustrated by Yasoda Dulal dasa.



One misty morning in the beautiful village of Nandagram, Mother Yasoda spoke affectionately to her beloved son, "My dear Gopal Krishna, you are such a good boy always helping your father Nanda and myself by looking after our calves.

"I worry, however, that your soft feet might get hurt because you are running around the pasture without wearing shoes. Please wear some shoes from this day on and also take an umbrella to protect yourself from the sun and rain."



Krishna then replied in a sweet voice, "My dear Mother, it is a child's duty to serve their parents nicely and help with household tasks. My friends and I enjoy herding the calves and we understand that there are many benefits in protecting the cows. However, how can I wear shoes to protect my feet and take shelter under an umbrella if the other boys and the calves are not getting such luxury? Please let us have fun without such items and let us all be treated equally".

Hearing that story from Mother Yasoda, Krishna's father Nanda Maharaja called a meeting with all the village cowherd men. He said in a loud clear voice, 'Fellow cowherd men – my dear friends, I have heard many good reports and also I have noticed that the boys who now look after the calves are doing a very good job. This group of boys that includes Krishna, Balarama, Subhal and Sridham show great responsibility as they carry out their duty of calf-herding.'



“They have respect for the elders in the village and are very caring to each other and the cows. They have earned our praise and respect. I suggest that they are ready to take more responsibility. Let us promote them from herding calves to cowherd boys. By giving the boys more responsibility, they will grow in stature and it will also help out the village greatly.” Hearing the wise words of Nanda Maharaja, the other cowherd men cheered with agreement. Thus it was agreed upon that a special ceremony known as Gopastami would be held to celebrate the boys becoming cowherds.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nityananda Trayodasi
Wednesday 12 February 2014



7.00 am Darshan
7.05 am Gurupuja and kirtana
7.30 am Class - Srimad Bhagavatam
9.30 am Bhajanas
10.0 am Class on Lord Nityananda

10.45 am Abhisheka of Lord Nityananda
11.25 am Gift opening
11.40 am Bhoga offering
12.00 pm Arati and kirtana
1.00 pm Feast

THE NEW GOVARDHANA AUSTRALIA
525 Tyalgum Road, EUNGELLA 4884
www.krishnaform.com
For more information please contact Damodara Pandit dasa 0415 130 313
For more information please contact Bhaktividanta Swami Prabhupada 0415 130 313

Artwork: Urvashi devi dasi

Sri Nityananda Trayodasi

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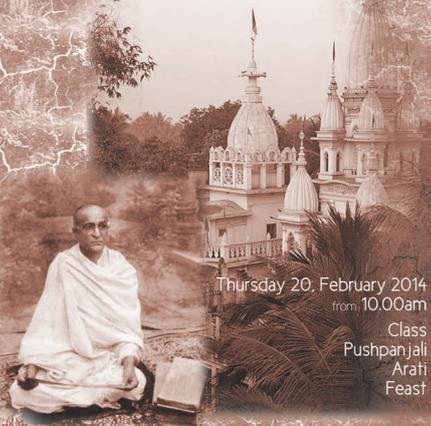
Disappearance day of, Sri Srimad Gour Govinda Swami

The 20 February 2014 is the auspicious anniversary of the disappearance day of Sri Srimad Gour Govinda Swami.

There will a program at 11.00 am on Saturday, 22 February 2014 at the house of Nimai Pandit dasa and Manjumedha dasi, 250 Tyalgum Road, Eungella. For more information call Nimai Pandit dasa on 02 6672 2358.

For appearance and disappearance celebration day notifications of ISKCON gurus, please contact newgovconch@gmail.com

Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura
Avirbhava Mahotsava



Thursday 20, February 2014
from 10.00am
Class
Pushpanjali
Arati
Feast

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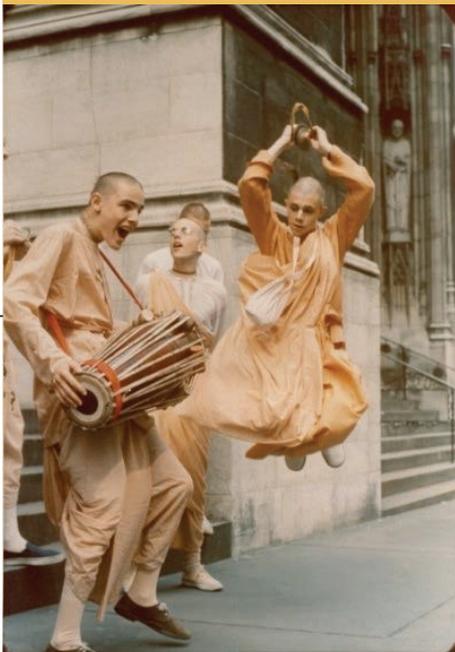
Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura – Avirbhava Mahotsava

Thursday, 20 February 2014

- 10.00 am Class
11.30 am Pushpanjali
12.00 pm Arati
1.00 pm Feast

Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura the spiritual master of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, the Founder-Acharya of ISKCON.

HARI-NAMA SANKIRTANA KI JAYA



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

Sunday Mornings

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

MONTHLY CALENDAR

(from Vaishnava calendar www.vaisnavacalendar.com)

- 4 Tu Srimati Visnupriya Devi — Appearance
Sarasvati Puja
Srila Visvanatha Cakravarti Thakura — Disappearance
Sri Pundarika Vidyanidhi — Appearance
Srila Raghunatha Dasa Gosvami — Appearance
- 6 Th Sri Advaita Acharya — Appearance (Fast till noon)
- 8 Sa Sri Madhvacharya — Disappearance
- 9 Su Sri Ramanujacharya — Disappearance
- 10 Mo **Fasting for Bhaimi Ekadasi (Fast today for Varahadeva)**
- 11 Tu Break fast 7.47 am – 10.48 am
Varaha Dvadas: Appearance of Lord Varahadeva (Fasting is done yesterday)
- 12 We Nityananda Trayodasi: Appearance of Sri Nityananda Prabhu (Fast till noon)
- 15 Sa Sri Krsna Madhura Utsava
- 20 Th Srila Narottama Dasa Thakura — Appearance
Sri Purusottama Das Thakura — Disappearance
- 26 We Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura — Appearance
Trisprsa Mahadvadasi Fasting for Vijaya Ekadasi
- 27 Th Trayodasi Break fast 6.36 am – 10.51 am
Sri Isvara Puri — Disappearance