



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS
Founder Acharya: His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

HARE KRISHNA NEWS

January / February 2021

Art by Sweta Manjari Dasi

2020 Temple Report

In this Issue

2020 Temple Report	4
Pray Like the World Depends On It	14
Living with Srila Prabhupada The Prabhupada Effect	15
Vaishnava Calendar	15
The Vaishnava Chef Halloumi, Kale & Chickpea Salad	16
For the Kids My Bhakti Calendar	17

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Sweet Radha

On The Cover

By Sweta Manjari Dasi

I am a former high school art teacher, now full-time mom. I have been practicing Krishna consciousness since childhood and have loads of beautiful memories of visiting the temple and walking around the moat, taking in the sparkling stones on the pathway and the ripples of the

water catching the moonlight – exactly how I imagined the spiritual world to be. I have been fortunate to be artistically involved in several festivals at the Sri Sri Radha Radhanath Temple over the years.

I have always loved drawing and painting and pursued it as a professional career, but as a full-time educator, it did not afford me the opportunity to develop my personal artistic style and this is what I am working towards now.

This is my attempt to portray Srimati Radharani (Probably a bit presumptuous of me to start there!). My inspiration is my toddler whose natural devotion and love for all things spiritual often leaves me in awe. She loves playing pretend and her favourite character to portray is a "Mataji" (an honorific title given to women, literally means "mother") who is visiting the temple. Srimati Radharani is her favourite person, she loves looking at Her picture and commenting about all the little details she observes.

As a toddler, everything is amazing and magical. I have tried to capture my daughter's mood in this painting. So this is my attempt at seeing Srimati Radharani through the eyes of my child.

This is a mixed media painting, done with watercolour, acrylic paints, and markers.

I hope that this painting inspires hope and positivity for the new year. The more we surrender, the more we will realise that everything is Krishna's plan. The only reality is Krishna and the magical, spiritual world.

Message from The Temple President

2020 was a year that promised to fulfil the dreams and desires for many around the world, instead the year turned out one of struggle and survival. The world was locked, travel was restricted, institutions were locked down, and most importantly, Srila Prabhupada's temples across the globe were temporarily closed and we were forced to go within.

We thought the virus will be a passing phase, which will be over in a few weeks but there was another plan. Almost a year later from the first lockdown, people across the world are still struggling for survival and at the same time trying to adjust to the new normal.

Devotees of Krishna adopted new ways to spread Krishna consciousness. We understand from Srila Prabhupada's teachings that the real panacea of the COVID-19 virus as well as troubles of the mind can only be traversed if we dive deeper into our Krishna consciousness. The material energy had forced us out of our comfort zone. We felt the difficulty of separation by not being able to render regular devotional service and how challenging spiritual life became without the nectar association of like-minded persons who inspire us to dive deeper into the unlimited ocean of Krishna consciousness.

Our faith was tested with the loss of spiritual mentors, family members, and close friends. Sometimes we had no direction but only to search out Krishna and His devotees as our oasis. Krishna says that His devotees will never perish (*Bhagavad Gita*) and together we prevailed in the joy of devotional service.

Throughout the pandemic devotees around the world held virtual classes, and meetings to encourage us in our spiritual lives, we travelled to Krishna's holy land via the internet, and devotees locally distributed millions of plates of vegetarian meals (prasada, Krishna's mercy) in their communities.

At the temple, by the grace of the resident devotees, the worship of our most beautiful and merciful deities continued although on a simpler standard. Well-wishers and devotees donated generously to keep the temple well maintained, we celebrated festivals, we nourished each other through online classes as well as spread the glories of Lord Krishna through the Bhakti Yoga Society, and the distribution of transcendental literature.

I also want to especially extend my deepest gratitude to Swarup Damodar and Ramvijay who both went over and above to ensure everything ran smoothly while I was out of action.

We have to come out stronger after this pandemic as Krishna taught as to surrender more to His lotus feet and that He is our protector and our only shelter.

We long for the day when we can dance in the Ratha Yatra or relish Krishna prasada in each other's association once again, until then keep chanting Hare Krishna and be safe.

Hare Krishna!
Vibhu Chaitanya Das

Vaishnava Calendar

16 Feb Tu	Vasanta Pancami Srimati Visnupriya Devi — Appearance Srila Visvanatha Cakravarti Thakura — Disappearance Srila Raghunatha Dasa Gosvami — Appearance
18 Feb Th	Sri Advaita Acarya — Appearance (Fast until noon)
21 Feb Su	Sri Madhvacarya — Disappearance
22 Feb Mo	Sri Ramanujacarya — Disappearance
23 Feb Tu	Ekadasi (Fast until noon for Varahadeva)
24 Feb We	Break fast 05:43 - 10:00 Varaha Dvadasi: Appearance of Lord Varahadeva (Fast on Tu 23 Feb)
25 Feb Th	Nityananda Trayodasi: Appearance of Sri Nityananda Prabhu (Fast until noon)

27 Feb Sa	Srila Narottama Dasa Thakura — Appearance
3 Mar We	Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura — Appearance (Fast until noon)
9 Mar Tu	Ekadasi
10 Mar We	Break fast 05:53 - 10:01 Sri Isvara Puri — Disappearance
12 Mar Fr	Shiva Ratri
14 Mar Su	Srila Jagannatha Dasa Babaji — Disappearance
25 Mar Th	Ekadasi
26 Mar Fr	Break fast 06:03 - 10:01 Sri Madhavendra Puri — Disappearance
28 Mar Su	Sri Gaura Purnima: Appearance of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu (Fast until moonrise)
29 Mar Mo	Festival of Jagannatha Misra
4 Apr Su	Sri Srivasa Pandita — Appearance
7 Apr We	Ekadasi
8 Apr Th	Break fast 06:10 - 10:01

Sri Sri Radha Radhanath

Bhakti Theatre

As with all performing arts, Bhakti Theatre (BT) was not able to host a live show in 2020. However, with determination and innovation we did post three events online:

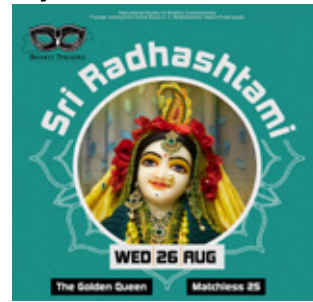
1. Janmastami – Think Big

Written by Taralaksi
Choreography by Mesha
Directed by Girisha
Editing by Sukadeva
16 participants



2. Radhashtami

Matchless 25
Choreography by Mesha and Girisha
Directed by Girisha
Editing by Sukadeva
17 participants, including 2 from outside of KZN



You may watch all the performances on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/DurbanKrishna>

"Thank you for allowing me to be part of such the amazing BT family. Thank you for creating this wonderful service where some of us can totally be ourselves and people like myself can

come out of our shell and get that unique experience we never really experience in our life. That feeling when you serve with your entire heart and be nervous at the same time!"
Guru Sevika Dasi

The Golden Queen

Written and directed by Jarikhanda Sevika
Participants included learners from Pietermaritzburg.

3. New Years' Eve Online

Bhakti Theatre Unfiltered – Moving Towards Love (A Dance Doccie)
Choreography by Mesha
Co-director Girisha
Videography Sukadeva
Editing Aindra Caitanya Das

Rukmini was invited to the 2020 ISKCON Leadership Sanga (ILS) in Mayapur to present youth cultivation of which BT was a major aspect in the presentation. BT crew did individual videos to share how BT has affected their lives.

GBC Strategic Planning interviewed Rasa-sthali, Rukmini and Radha Priya about BT. Interview was done on their FB live: <https://www.facebook.com/gbcspt/videos/369491257349568/>

Think Big was screened on BBT International World Gita Day.

Branding & Design

- 217 in-house designs for events, announcements, and advertising, including COVID Lockdown Temple Regulations
- Designed Govinda's daily menu ads for a 6 weeks and oversized info banners for Govinda's Pop-up Takeaway
- Designed and marketed Janmashtami Festival on social media
- Produced 2020 Calendars - 2 wall calendars and one desk top.
- Designed 2 Billboards: Chant Hare Krishna & COVID Lockdown
- Arranged branded face masks that meet COVID regulation



h Temple 2020 Report

Bhakti Yoga Society

Sri Sri Radha Radhanath Temple's Student Cultivation Program

- Orientation week was interrupted by strikes
- Sacred Vibrations - Kirtan event at Westville campus (15 students)
- Perspectives – Online Bhakti Yoga Retreat. Guest speakers included Sacinananda Swami, Bhuta Bhavana, Urmila, Acyuta Gopi, Jayadvaita Swami, Kadamba Kanana Swami, Sri Radha Govinda and Mukundhanghri - approx 200 people attended. (via Zoom)

"Organization was really top class. I really appreciate the thought put into the choice of topics and speakers." Mahesh (UCT)

"Given the current situation you have (still) managed to accomplish this impactful retreat which I'm sure will resonate in the hearts of us all who have been a part of it. I am enlightened and so grateful for the quality association..." Luita (UKZN Westville Campus)

- Book Club – approx 200 sessions covering *Science of Self Realization*, *Sri Isopanisad*, and *Nectar of Instruction*. Focus on peer study to develop a practical understanding of the scripture and skills for presentations – a head plus heart event.

"Bookclub has provided me with a welcoming space to approach sacred texts – something I've found quite daunting to do alone. I've always had really bad social anxiety, which is why I've shied away from doing most things I've wanted to, but the groups always been so warm and inviting. I felt encouraged to speak up and engage and it's been so rewarding. Each session has been an opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions with like-minded people, to understand and connect with timeless ancient Vedic knowledge, and to do so in a contemporary setting!" Sonali Menon (Durban)

- Bhakti Journey on Instagram: 12 interviews delving into what inspires people to begin their spiritual path and the joys and challenges faced. Real Talk! (Instagram Live)

- Reading & Reflections : Devotees and students share their favourite books. (12 sessions on Instagram Live)

"Bhakti Journeys and Reading & Reflections has become my beacon of hope during lockdown. I look forward to hearing about other's journeys, it helps me connect and listen to the guidance in a fun and meaningful way. And Assisting me with my spiritual journey on a relatable platform." Lameez Karriem (CPT)

"The BYS reading and reflection sessions have opened my mind to the world beyond anything I could have ever imagined. From the point of being misaligned and misinformed, I am now finally properly situated." Shane Pather (Durban)

- Live 2 Give Campaign. BYS contribution was to gift sponsored Bhagavad Gitas to interested seekers. Just under 1500 students were contacted and approx 180 Gitas are being distributed with a follow-up program (Gita Wise - Mind Space) that started in February 2021.



Results Are In!

2020

**PRABHUPADA
MARATHON**

9225

BOOKS

9497,65

Book Points

**#LIVE2
GIVE**

#Live2Give Score

6008 Gitas

Top 3 Teams

1. Arena Park Nama-hatta

825 Books · 400 Book Points

2. BTG Team

2429 Books · 242,90 Book Points

3. Jahnava Dasis

299 Books · 203,25 Book Points

Top 3 Individuals

1. Vibhu Caitanya Das

2107 Books · 3001 Book Points

2. Nikunja Seva Dasi

643 Books · 1042,25 Book Points

3. Bilvamangala Thakur Das

508 Books · 1016 Book Points

80 Participants, which includes 9 Teams.

SRI SRI RADHA RADHANATH TEMPLE

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Book Distribution

- In August 2020 ISKCON Durban ranked 9th in the world! August also marked the first time we had a South African (Vibhu Chaitanya) ranked as top book distributor in the world!
- 69 Sets of *Srimad Bhagavatam* were distributed over the Bhadra Campaign
- 540 1st Cantos were distributed from 2019 Badra Purinma (September) to 2020 Badra Purinma (September)
- 6008 *Bhagavad Gitas* were distributed to add to the global #LiveToGive Campaign
- The national top 3 individuals in the 2020 Prabhupada Marathon were all from ISKCON Durban: Vibhu Chaitanya, Nikunja Seva, and Bilvamangal Thakur
- We hosted two online Monthly Sankirtan Festivals

SSRRT 2020 Book Distribution Results

	Books	Book Points
January	733	400,25
February	0	0
March	97	104
April	0	0
May	48	160,25
June	91	83
July	5763	2200,35
August	6518	6029,10
September	1263	821,75
October	1509	2282,50
November	715	1206
December	9225	9497,69
TOTAL	24962	22783,89

Deity Department

This past year has certainly been unprecedented. We never imagined that Sri Sri Radha Radhanath would not be directly accessible. With the reign of COVID-19, we saw the temple become mostly inaccessible to the community. 2020 brought about tremendous change in how we serve Their Lordships.

I was extremely fortunate to have had the opportunity to live at the temple during the Sri Krishna Janmashtami period last year; and as I stood in the temple room at midnight absorbing the supreme beauty of Their Lordships, I felt

overwhelmed with emotions and my heart and mind immediately went to all the devotees who no longer had this privilege.

During 2020, we have had to make multiple adjustments to the Deities' services. This was due to the temple being closed to the general public during the Level 5 lockdown and subsequent COVID-19 restrictions. The glorious temple residents served tirelessly to ensure the Deities' adjusted standards of worship continued, since no congregation devotees were allowed to enter the temple.

However, at the start of Kartik, new rosters were created and a handful of devotees (who had no co-morbidities and who were low risk) from the congregation were allowed to resume their services. Both the temple and deity kitchens were thoroughly and meticulously sanitized after every food offering, *arati* and other deity service engagements ensuring the safety of the devotees. Things were progressing nicely, but then we were hit with the second wave and a hard lockdown was once again required. Although the temple is closed to the public, the Deities' services continue, which entails the incurring of costs. Numerous devotees have kindly assisted with various kinds of *bhoga* and monetary contributions towards their Lordships' services.

The Internet became our link to the Deities. Through virtual platforms we are able to attend festivals at the temple, have *darshan* of the Deities, watch the bathing ceremonies on festival days, and remotely (and safely) associate with devotees.

Your servant,
Devadeva Das



Divine Touch – A Meditation on Deity Worship

By Rukmini Devi Dasi

Rukmini is a full-time resident at SSRRT, and has been part of the core team of devotees taking care of the Deities.

Silver bells chime
& incense billows
Before the sunrise
In the sacred towers

Fortunate souls
In pure cotton robes
Ascending the stairs
To Your holy abode

On straw-grass mats
They take their seats
Thanking the earth
For holding their feet

In the mirror of the heart
They see a line of sages
Paving their path
With blessings and good wishes

On the shuttle of their mind
Move through space, thought
and time
Reaching out to You
On mantra fuel they fly

Earth, water, wind, and fire
Word, thought, deed, desire
They give back to You
All that You supply

Silver bells chime
& incense billows
Before the sunrise
But I miss my pillows

Late yet again
With 4 trays on my hips
I'm climbing the stairs
Tripping on my pleats

Waving the flame,
Was that 3, 4 or 5?
Pray the incense
Won't set the curtains alight!



Dropping my bell
Missing mantra sheets
Deep down inside
Know I'm still asleep

And then I see Your face
And I can't help but smile
And all of my issues
Pale for a while

Petals at Your feet
Please come take a seat
Welcome to this heart space
Good morning, My Sweet

Prepare Your bath
With lotus prints
Gently brush away
The sandalwood

Check out my choice
Of soft and fine cloth
Jewels and flowers
Now the magic starts!

Should Your turban twist?
Would You like a pleat?
Can I place a Frangi
Next to Your cheek?

Was this really me?
Was this really You?
Something in between
But do You like Your do?

May Your curvy eyes
Grant vision to all kind
May true joy flood the world
Like Your happy smile

Like the pearl upon Your nose
Bring all others close
Ornament us with kindness
May divine friendship grow

Am I going crazy
When my hands feel holy
And I'm holding You
But I feel You hold me?

As heavy as the earth
In the palm of my hands
You're my solid rock
In the fallible sand

It must be love
It must be grace
Who else would wear
My art on His face

It must be love
It must be grace
Who else would wear
My heart on His face

Oh, I can't get enough
No, I can't get enough
I can't get enough of
Your divine touch

While silver bells chime
& incense billows...

Devotee Care Durban South

Up until the lockdown in March 2020, the team had been fully engaged with the devotee community through house programmes, hospital and institutional visits, emotional, mental, and spiritual support, end-of-life care, last rites assistance, as well as care for the elderly.

However, the lockdown brought most of these activities to a grinding halt. Vibhu Chaitanya was concerned for our safety and wellbeing and of course the different restrictions imposed nation-wide also impacted what functions we were able to perform. Only end-of-life care and performing final rites ceremonies for devotees remained ongoing under strict COVID protocol measures.

The lockdown had a devastating impact on unemployment and created a massive need for the distribution of grocery hampers. Spearheaded by the late Radha Giridhari, the Devotee Care team managed to secure generous sponsorships of grocery items that facilitated monthly hamper distributions to devotee families in need.

The Devotee Care team sustained a most severe

loss with the tragic passing away of Radha Giridhari, who had dedicated himself fully, inexhaustibly, and most expertly to extending care to all the devotees for over three decades. The devotee community still mourns his demise.

A skeleton team of Yamunangi, Sad Goswami, and a few team members continued with the hamper drive, thanks to the generosity of several sponsors.

The distribution of *maha prasada* and medical supplies to devotees who had either tested positive or were ailing also became a large part of Devotee Care service in 2020. With the arrival of the even more disastrous second wave, Devotee Care Durban South was forced to shut down operations even further under lockdown level 3. This was also exacerbated by a number of team members themselves contracting COVID-19 as well.

Only last rites, the distribution of *prasada* and medicines, and telephonic contact with the devotees continued. The Devotee Care Durban South Team pray that every devotee remains safe and unharmed in 2021 and that we will be able to meet your specific care needs.



Finance

The pandemic has wreaked havoc on the world economy, including South Africa where practically every sector and industry has been negatively impacted. For our Temple, we have noted substantially reduced income streams. The Temple Management had undertaken cost reduction interventions across all departments. This has resulted in considerable material cost savings. The community is called upon to further assist and support the Temple to ensure the most basic and essential services are sustained.

SSRRT 2020 Financial Statement

INCOME		
1.	Back to Godhead Subscriptions	1571618
2.	Govinda's	1701235
3.	Radhanath Gifts & Calendars	279091
4.	Outreach Programs	243233
5.	Hundi	281791
6.	Deity Donations, Take Care of Krishna & General Donations	5371880
TOTAL INCOME		9448848
EXPENDITURE		
1.	Salaries, Wages and Allowances (incl Govindas)	1413153
2.	Repairs & maintenance (incl renovations)	76634
3.	Govindas	2463803
4.	Motor Vehicle Expenses	109161
5.	Electricity, Water and Refuse Removal	1045644
6.	Gift Shop, Books and Calenders	991655
7.	Telecommunications and Computer Services	191007
8.	Preaching (local, national and international)	110533
9.	Printing & Stationery, Postage and Advertising	156930
10.	Accounting, Legal and other fees	44220
11.	Deity expenses	200301
12.	Security	283507
13.	Payments to other Centres	1142432
14.	BTG and Freight	341948
15.	General Expenses	280347
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		8851273
Surplus/Deficit		597575

Maintenance

In 2020 the Sri Sri Radha Radhanath Temple formed a maintenance committee. The aim of the committee, was to try and develop a "feeling of belonging" within the congregation and the general public by empowering them to assist in the general maintenance of the temple.

Individuals could offer in whatever capacity assistance with the building and security maintenance. All buildings require maintenance and some of the issues that require attention are:

- Temple security
- Painting of the building
- Renovations to the Brahmachari Ashram
- Securing of the roof tiles and leaks of the roof

- General maintenance of the temple room, deity department and rooms of the full-time resident devotees including but not limited to plumbing, electrical, and garden maintenance.

Some of the difficulties the maintenance team and management currently have are as follows:

- Lack of security
- Lack of volunteer skilled labour
- Lack of finances to complete maintenance projects.

Current and Completed Projects

The security of the temple, visitors, and devotees are of utmost importance. The fencing around the perimeter of the temple has begun. Thank you to all who have contributed to this project. However, funds are still required to complete the fencing.

A pump motor was installed in the borehole to assist with the water shortages.

Volunteers have assisted in many of the plumbing and electrical issues e.g. installation of geysers, tap renovations, etc.

Air conditioners were installed in a few rooms e.g. Srila Prabhupada's room.

The overall general maintenance of rooms and gardens have been headed by Tattva Darshan Das and Raghunath Bhatta Das.

Opportunities in 2021

- The general public and devotee community are welcome to offer whatever skills they possess in service to the temple and Sri Sri Radha Radhanath.
- They are also invited to contribute equipment or materials for any of the maintenance projects.
- A sum of R200 000 is still required to complete the fencing; all are invited to assist to contribute if possible.

Those who would like to assist in any capacity or have any maintenance queries can contact:
Rasarani Devi Dasi: 0649017716

The Sri Sri Radha Radhanath maintenance team would like to thank all who have contributed to the maintenance of the temple as well as those who have volunteered their time. "If you build a temple of Lord Krishna in this world, He would build a palace for you in the spiritual world," Srila Prabhupada.

PR & Communications and Festival Team

The Temple's largest festival, Sri Krishna Janmashtami, fell during lockdown level 5. The devotee and greater community were disappointed that we could not celebrate as we usually do. The PR Team in collaboration with the Festival Team were committed to stage a festival that will be accessible to the public and at the same time honour the national restrictions. For Gita Week, we arranged nine evenings with internationally acclaimed and learned speakers. At the end of every evening, one participant won a copy of the *Bhagavad Gita As It Is*. Stats showed that people from all over South Africa (and also some global participants) logged on. The virtual Janmashtami Festival program was a replication of the festivities of an actual festival at the temple with Krishna's birthday party for children (with story telling, crafts and other interactive aspects), the Women's Forum's live cooking demo (how to prepare a full offering for Krishna on His appearance day), Kirtanuity Youth Group presented two sessions – a quiz and an Q&A, Bhakti Theatre presented Think Big - poetic dance piece, and old favourites of traditional *bhajans* by renowned local and international guest artists. The Festival Team organised a safe system for people to come take *darshan* of Sri Sri Radha Radhanath on Janmashtami day and all visitors were given packed *prasada*. Midnight *darshan* was streamed HD on both Zoom and Facebook.

This was the first time such an event would be replicated online. And this fact posed new challenges – a learning experience and the opportunity to think up fresh and exciting ways to market the festival. Lots of time was spent in planning and behind the scenes to make the online experience special for everyone. This endeavour was an attempt to help ease the yearning for association that was so deeply missed. The online festival bridged that gap and made the year more spiritually fulfilling and nourishing. The Janmashtami festival totalled 40 hours of live online broadcasting! The festival was advertised on radio interviews as well as articles in print media and social media. We also hosted online programs on the special days during the month of Kartik. ISKCON Durban serves as a part of the Corporate Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) as their social partner – this is a key avenue in local government and we met with various stakeholders.

Reception

The Temple Reception faced the greatest challenge in 2020. We were closed from March until July. With still not being able to come into office, we opened the reception remotely but had substantial technical issues, which made it difficult to be 100% efficient. People were not able to hear us on the line and we had to call them back. We did not have a professional and competent technician to solve our constant problems. By the inspiration of Vibhu Chaitanya, we courtesy called all the devotees in our phone book to check on how they are coping with the pandemic and extended assistance. Devotees were so happy to hear from the temple, and that the temple cares about them. Krishna Baladev, "...so kind of you to call and the kind gesture from Vibhu Prabhu, I really appreciate it. If the temple needs anything, do not hesitate to call and I will by all means try and provide it. Thank you so much for all your kindness." Devotees constantly called to ask when the temple was opening and to express how they miss seeing the Lord and doing their service. Some devotees were in need of help, food hampers, and *maha prasada*, which was delivered to them by Vibhu Chaitanya and a few other devotees. Devotees who were affected by COVID-19 were so grateful for the call and the support from the temple. There were continuous queries about *darshan* times and the new operating standards from the greater community.

The Temple Reception reopened in October. The office was relocated to the admin block as the actual temple building is not open to the public. The issues with the phone lines were resolved! It was awesome to be back on the temple grounds.

Social Media

Pick 'n Pay featured the Temple as a place to visit in Durban in their Summer 2020 issue.

Hare Krishna News

Six issues were published.

4500 hard copies distributed through BTG and businesses in and around Durban for Jan/Feb & Mar/April

Online readership is unknown currently.

Average number of devotees engaged per issue: ten.

Culture kicks

Sri Sri Radha Radhanath Temple:

This magnificent structure pays homage to the founder of the Hare Krishna movement. iskcondurban.net

Rikshaws: Durban is the only place where you can ride in one of these funky Zulu-Asian contraptions. Find them along the beachfront.

Golden Mile is dotted with coffee spots, cocktail bars and surf cafes for feet-in-the-sand meals.

The Arch: Umhlanga's newest landmark includes the Legacy Yard Food Hall, for anything from pizza and gelato to Indian street food, plus the rooftop Back Yard tiki-bar for drinks overlooking the ocean. umhlangaarch.co.za



Sri Sri Radha Radhanath Temple

PHOTOS: GALLO/GETTY IMAGES, SHUTTERSTOCK, GRAEME HOLLIDAY, SUKADAVA SHANKER, SPROUT

Dandavats.com posted 15 articles from HKN. HKN was Emailed to BTG donors.

HKN is now an online issue, which was a huge saving for the Temple.

Each HKN print run costed = R16476

Therefore we have saved R49428 in 2020.

An online issue also allows more flexibility with regard to number of pages.

Layout and design was done in-house using Adobe InDesign.

WhatsApp Broadcast

2019: 2838 subscribers

2020: 2998 subscribers

Darshan post and info post per day

Hotline

The Hotline had a total of 242 queries for year-to-date 1 Jan to 6 December 2020. That is a total of 52 queries or 27% more than last year. The largest category was general queries followed by subscriptions.

Week Ahead

Weekly email sent every Thursday (50 in a year)
Shared on the following platforms:

- Email (1111 subscribers) – technical issues with Sendinblue. Unable to resolve.
- Facebook
- WhatsApp

- Website
- Blog
- Twitter
- Instagram

Blog

Week Ahead guide uploaded every Thursday
Alternate access to Week Ahead if the website is down.

Website

Opened online store
Activated online donations
All event posters are uploaded to site
Week Ahead guide uploaded every Thursday
Upgrade stalled

Google Business Report for Hare Krishna Temple/Sri Sri Radha Radhanath Temple

25 Reviews and Star ratings – personal response to every review or rating. (Google closed this function during lockdown)
Rating on Google 4.7stars out of 5 (based on 480 reviews)
8 posts with average of 300 views

Google Business Report for Govinda's & Radhanath Gifts

9 posts with average of 500 views
Rating on Google 4.6stars out of 5

Instagram

2019: 8023 followers
2020: 12600 followers

Timeline

Average likes 1500
Average 50 comments
Average 50 shares

Story

Average likes 250

Weekly Storytelling series
Minimum one post daily
Minimum one story daily

Facebook

2019: 37172 followers
2020: 39584 followers
Average Engagement 0.03% 10 likes and 1 comment
Approximately 668 posts for 2020 up until 30 November

Minimum 2 post daily

An average of 500 views on Facebook Stories

Twitter

2019: 2824 followers
2020: 3472 followers
One post per week

YouTube

2019: 89 Subscribers
2020: 207 Subscribers
15 videos uploaded

Sound Cloud

2019: 170 Followers
2020: 233 Followers
339 lectures uploaded

Daily Darshan

Darshan posted on following platforms:
Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp
344 Darshans posted
Average views on Facebook 4000
Average views on Instagram 1000
ISKCON Desire Tree shared SSRR darshan on their Instagram page.

Womens Forum

The Sri Sri Radha Radhanath Women's Forum (WF) functioned mostly under the wing of the Vaishnavi Ministry SA (VMSA) for 2020. Members of the Women's Forum participated in online events such as the VMSA National Women's Day celebration, which included speakers from across South Africa. The topics discussed at this event included holistic living, natural healing, parenting, conscious cooking, as well as other women's issues.

The WF participated in the VMSA Purushottam Maas program with several Vaishnavis from our community sharing inspirational videos, which were posted on the Vaishnavi Ministry SA Facebook page. Videos covered scripture reading, teaching the correct standard of offering and worship, japa, and meditation practices.

The Women's Forum offered one-on-one support to the women of the community, through telephone calls or video calls during lockdown. The strength of the community lies within our relationships and our aim is to build those relationships through support, love, and care.

Pray Like the World Depends on It

Gaura Bhumi Devi Dasi

The sun shone down brightly, yet the chill of unease settled in day by day. The age of spiritual piety was drawing to a close. The world of men lacked nothing save Divinity, their senses prone to a misled life of degradation. The revered teacher peered through his window observing the people strolling by. The pathetic state of Navadvipa never failed to leave a heart ache. His erudite neighbours now used their wealth and ritualistic knowledge to marry their pets to each other. Once the centre of devotional knowledge, now the dust of dry learning lined Navadvipa's streets. Faces that once shone bright with bhakti now sneered with a lust for material gain. People wanted to study scripture from him to debate on logic, grammar and analytical philosophy – everyone had forgotten the root of everything. How could they not see that their hearts were starved for love? There was no water in this desert-like world for anyone. But he was called Acharya. Whether the world appreciated it or not, he had a duty to see to its' welfare—he would always act in a way that was beneficial to humanity. He still had some honour left; he would use it one last time.

Acharya painstakingly sifted through each and every page of every manuscript in his study. Day after day he searched for the answer. The scriptures hailed that every situation in life could be turned into something favourable – their pages alone would soothe the world. As sunshine turned to moonlight, their rays lit up a passage from an old manuscript – the *Gautamiya Tantra* which extolled: "The Lord sells Himself to one who sincerely worships Him with Tulasi leaves and a palm of Ganges water." He raced down to the river bank with the vigour of hope propelling him onward, the time for empirical knowledge was over.

**How could they not see
that their hearts were
starved for love?**

Clear pearls of perspiration trailed down the old man's forehead. His lips murmured in prayer with the fervour of an agile youth. He petitioned the Absolute Truth in complete humbleness. His murmur turned into a hum. His hum turned into a throaty croak, and his throaty croak into a roar. Acharya's intense eagerness spurred on the momentum of his spiritual force, pushing his roars through the covering of the universe and, resounding throughout the spiritual world, it reached the ears of the Lord Himself. Sri Krishna would certainly acknowledge this repeated invitation. The time was nearing – the fate of tomorrow depended on him.

Some months later, the spotted full moon hid in shame on the appearance of the spotless moon-

like Golden Lord. The vibrations of Acharya's roars had remained in the ether and now turned palpable. The whole world roared with devotional sentiment to negate the effects of a lunar eclipse as the Lord descended. It had begun – the Age of Devotion through song and dance.

The Lord does not descend by Himself; He always comes with His associates. The pastimes of Lord Caitanya depict God in five features. Sri Advaita Acharya represents the incarnation of the Lord's devotee. He is an incarnation of Maha-Vishnu and Sadasiva combined. Advaita Acharya reintroduced the path of *bhakti* and was the perfect model of its practice. As Sadasiva allows

the most fallen entities to take guidance from him, so did Advaita feel deep compassion for the plight of humanity – he knew the best way of doing well for others: devotional service. "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." ~ Caitanya Caritamrita Adi lila 1.13

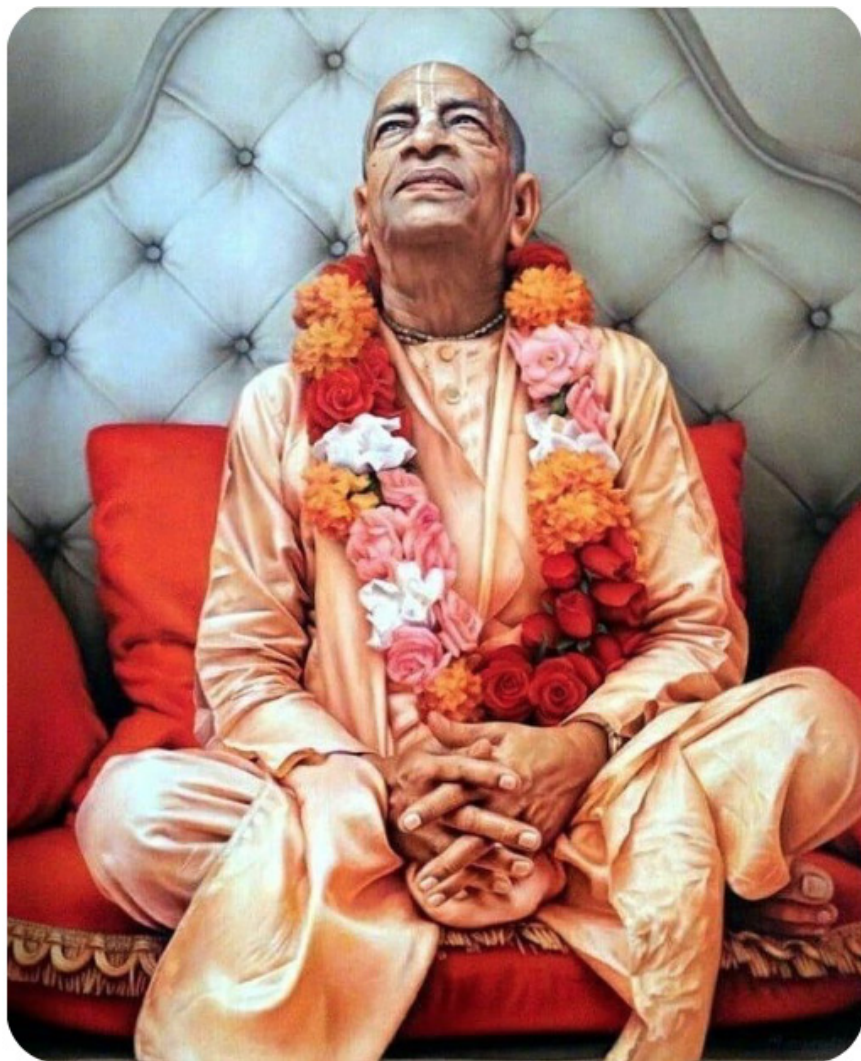


The Prabhupada Effect

Living with Srila Prabhupada

Akuti Devi Dasi:

"Once in his Los Angeles garden he was sitting on a bench swaying back and forth as he read from the *Krishna Book*. He loved it; it was nectar to his ears. When he heard the pastime of Krishna and Balaram stealing butter and yoghurt and Mother Yasoda chastising Them, Prabhupada leaned back and laughed in enjoyment. That pastime is dear to me because I saw Prabhupada experience and relish it. It was Friday night and from the garden we heard the devotees getting into vans and closing the doors. Prabhupada said, "Where's everybody going?" Someone said, "They are going on *sankirtana* Prabhupada." Prabhupada said, "Ah, yes, this Nityananda's movement. Going door to door getting everyone to chant Hare Krishna." We all felt ecstatic to be a part of Lord Nityananda's flow of mercy.



I got first and second initiation at the same ceremony. At that time Prabhupada looked at me and gave me a personal instruction. He said, "Just chant Hare Krishna and be happy." So I'm still trying to be happy in chanting Hare Krishna and serving him.

Prabhupada wants to build a house that the whole world can live in. Whatever devotion I have in my life is like a part of the foundation for his big construction project; I'm dedicated to him and want to help him, and I've always liked to build things. Now, after he's gone, beyond all the good and the bad, the uglies and mishaps and rough waters, to maintain and increase his ISKCON house, knowing that it's his heart, is the most absorbing thing anyone could do. We're not all *brahmanas* or pure devotees, so we need to engage people in Krishna's services according to the means and interests and by developing [daiva] *varnasrama* we can gather people to fill his house.

We're daughters of the most wonderful father who's bringing all his children back to his hometown. Prabhupada didn't want us to be hanging around; he wanted us to always be engaged in Krishna's service, otherwise *maya* will get us one way or another. So I beg, borrow and steal to get some service for Srila Prabhupada. He's done so much for me and for all of us. He's engaged us, and if we can learn from him how to engage others, that will keep all of us happy. We have a lot to do.

Every day I think about Srila Prabhupada and his instructions – to come to *mangal-arati*, to read and chant and go on *sankirtana* – the basics. And I think of his missionary work of spreading Krishna consciousness to every single person.

Excerpt from A Bond of Love: Srila Prabhupada and His Daughters. You can purchase A Bond of Love on amazon.com



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ISKCON Durban
DurbanKrishna



Halloumi, Kale & Chickpea Salad

The Vaishnava Chef

By Chandrashekara Das

Ingredients

400g canned chickpeas, drained, and rinsed
400g butternut peeled, de-seeded and chopped into bite sized pieces

2 green peppers, de-seeded and sliced into strips

2 medium sized fennel bulbs chopped

3 tbsls olive oil

½ tsp smoked paprika

½ tsp cumin seeds

100g Halloumi, sliced into large strips

100g cherry tomatoes, sliced

Fresh kale to serve

Toasted sesame seeds

Sauce

½ tsp peanut oil or sunflower oil

1 tsp hing

½ tsp crushed chillies

½ Tbsl brown sugar

1 tsp soy sauce

2 Tbsl peanut butter

300ml coconut milk

Method

Preheat oven to 200°C. Place the chickpeas,

butternut, green peppers, and fennel into a bowl. Add in 2 Tbsls of olive oil and toss to coat the vegetables. Spread onto two large baking tins and roast for 30 -35 minutes until the veggies are well cooked and slightly charred. (By using two large baking tins, it ensures that the veggies cook well and char.)

Meanwhile combine the remaining 1 Tbl olive oil with the paprika and cumin. Rub the Halloumi with the spiced oil and cook for 5 minutes per side on a griddle pan at medium to high heat.

To make the sauce, heat the peanut oil in a saucepan over medium heat. Add in the hing powder and crushed chillies and cook for 30 seconds. Add in sugar and cook for a further minute. Stir in the soy sauce and peanut butter. Then add in the coconut milk, a little at a time, stirring well until the sauce has thickened slightly. If you prefer the sauce thicker, whisk 1 tsp cornflour into 1 tsp of water and add mixture to the sauce – stir constantly over medium heat until thickened to the desired consistency.

Serve the roasted veggies over a bed of kale. Top with Halloumi strips, cherry tomatoes and the sauce. Sprinkle over toasted sesame seeds. Offer to Krishna with love and devotion and then serve. Note: this recipe serves 4.



My Bhakti Calendar

For the Kids

All the months on the calendar are blank. That is for you to think about what you would like

to accomplish in your devotion to Krishna. Set yourself goals that you can reach and feel happy about. This calendar is there to remind you and help you feel closer to Krishna. The calendar is courtesy of Saragrahi Art.

JANUARY

February

MARCH



April

MAY



June

JULY



August

SEPTEMBER



October

NOVEMBER

December



SARAGRAHI ART