

ISKCON New Talavan Community



"Protecting the Heart of Vedic Dharma"

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NEW TALAVAN TIMES

February/March/April- 2009

Dear Devotees, friends, and well-wishers,

Please accept our most humble obeisances, and we wish you a very happy Spring Season. Jai Srila Prabhupada! Jai Gurudeva!

Lord Krishna says that, 'Of seasons I am flower-bearing Spring,' and is it any wonder? With the sweet call of the birds, the shyly sprouting new leaves in the verdant fields, the buzzing bees and the flitting butterflies wooing the fluttering flowers in the warm, sweetly-scented, spring air, we have no doubts whatsoever!

We wish to bring you up-to-date on all that's happened here at New Talavana, the Holy Dhama, which is actually 'Gupt Vrindavana,' [Secret/Hidden Vrindavan]. We are sorry that it has taken so long, and so we have included the events of the first half of April. We pray for your forgiveness and thank you for your patience.

Without further ado, we present our report to you, dear readers, and we welcome your comments, suggestions, questions and realizations. Jai Srila Prabhupada! Jai Gurudeva!

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FEBRUARY 2009

1.DESTINATION MAYAPUR

The first week of February saw a mass exodus of devotees who were headed to Mayapur for the upcoming Maha-Abhishekh of Sri Sri Panca Tattva on February 25th, the much-awaited event that was going to be held only after five years after Their Installation in 2004 and the last time until 2014, so naturally devotees were very eager to attend and get the nectar.

Gaura Purnima—the Blessed Appearance of Lord Sri Krsna Caitanya, the Most Merciful Manifestation of the Supreme Lord in this Age of Kali, followed on March 11th in Mayapur—another reason for the travel out of New Talavana. Mother Lila Avatara devi dasi, Pundarikakshan Das Prabhu, M. Kaivalya Sundari, M. Sripati, M. Syamalata, M. Sankirtana, Nanda Suta das and his wife, Sridevi dasi, Lalita Praneshwara das prabhu, and a lot of the younger folk like Sughosh, Surariha, Sudesna, Nakula, Giri-govardhana, Marisha, Balarama dasa, and Devahuti, left for Mayapur leaving the stalwarts like M. Haridhvani, M.Maha-lakshmi, M. Maharani Tulasi, M. Bhaktidhana etc. along with Yogi prabhu, Dvibhuja prabhu, Candrabhanu prabhu etc. to take care of New Talavana Deities.

2.LORD NITYANANDA’S APPEARANCE DAY

February 7th was the Most Blessed Appearance Day of Lord Nityananda, Who is Adi-Guru, the Most Merciful and compassionate Lord. Lord Nityananda is EVEN MORE merciful than Lord Caitanya as He forgave even the rascals Jagai and Madhai, whom Lord Caitanya was going to destroy with His sudarshan cakra, for attacking and trying to kill Lord Nityananda. Such is His Mercy! Jai Lord Nityananda Who is ‘premananda-sukhi.’ We pray for the shelter of His Divine Lotus Feet!

The abhishekha ceremony was ably carried out by His Grace Adhrita das, our head pujari. It was a night ceremony, and all devotees were ecstatic on the appearance of the Lord. A floor-thumping kirtan led by His Grace Prahlad Narasimha das prabhu followed, and our Temple President Yogindra Vandana das prabhu read from the Caitanya Bhagavat. After that all devotees gratefully accepted the maha prasadam cooked by M. Gaura.

February also saw the presence of His Grace Prahlad Narasimha das prabhu, who used every minute to preach on the coast, attending various bhakti vriksha groups along with his two sons and wife. His Grace also is adept in astro-counseling, gemology and offering ayurvedic cures to so many grateful people. His Grace also gave a wonderful Sunday feast lecture.

The last two weeks of February saw our Gopi-girl, Jayanti and our dear gurukul teacher, Kalindi devi, busily preparing the Mardi Gras Ratha Yatra “cart,” which is actually a huge semi-trailer converted into a float for the annual carnival parade down in New Orleans. It means cleaning out

the previous year's decorations and left over throws, repairing damage, and checking the whole float minutely so that it is safe for the forty or so people who will board it to distribute the Lord's Mercy.

After that comes the making of the decorations and then putting up the decorations- not a small task by any means. Lalita Praneshwara prabhu and Bhakta Scott pitched in and helped a great deal, and Yogi Prabhu, Parampara prabhu and Girigovardhana installed the sound system so that it played the Maha Mantra the whole day long on the carnival ride, giving the Holy Name to thousands. His Grace Jagadvallabha das afixed the altar nicely to the semi-trailer so that the Deities could ride without any hitch. The little gurukuli kids, Nityapriya and Draupadi, not to be left behind, helped paint the cart.

It meant many, many hours of labor, every day, for many days. But our young folks are made of stern stuff. Dedicated and committed, they did not pause until it was all done! The result was a beautiful cart with the theme, 'COME AND CHANT WITH US-THE PARTY ANIMALS,' with lovely murals of various animals, ecstatically chanting and dancing to the Maha Mantra, a la Jharikhanda forest! [See Chaitanya Caritamrta, Madhya Lila 17.1 for the amazing pastime].

3. MARDI GRAS RATH YATRA



Mardi Gras was on February 24th, and this time, His Holiness Jayapataka Swami's absence [due to health reasons] was greatly missed. Guru Maharaj NEVER, well, practically never, misses Mardi Gras Ratha Yatra, and the people in New Orleans are thrilled when they see Guru Maharaj, royally attired in a beautiful, eye-catching turban, looking like a Royal Maharajah waving to the crowd and giving them 'prasadam.' However, Guru Maharaj is always giving us his mercy, and so we took heart from that to carry on. We hope very much to have his kind and loving association next year for Mardi Gras.

Finally the day arrived, and the cart was ready for Lord Jagannath to ascend to His Divine Throne on the cart. Many devotees were needed to lift Him and transport Him from the New Talavana temple to the cart. His Grace Giridhari prabhu, who is M. Kaivalya's husband, His Grace Sarvadi prabhu, His Grace Parampara prabhu and our tough youngsters Subal and Narayan, and a few others helped with great happiness, to bring Lord Jagannath to the cart where the Lord then gave His merciful darshan to many people.

The cart was taken to New Orleans early that morning and last-minute decorations were put on, and devotees and guests from there climbed onto the cart. This time there were many devotee guests on the float, outnumbering temple devotees. His Grace Dasarath Suta das prabhu came all the way from Florida to film the Mardi Gras Carnival, and we are hoping to get a DVD for sale and a movie documentary from him. Of the devotee guests, Mr. Bansal and Mr. Ram Sharma were attired in colorful turbans and looked every inch like royalty from Rajasthan, much to everyone's delight. The Mardi Gras is a colorful event, and every little bit of color helps add to the festive look. They, along with their wives and many other ladies [wives of New Orleans devotees] and their children, made up the rest on the float. They all paid the \$25.00 fee and brought their own 'throws,'- beads, hats and stuffed animals to throw to the crowd, which is always eager for something.



M. Jayapatni made a triumphant return to do her service by riding the cart this year after her kidney transplant, and we are very grateful to Guru Maharaj and Lord Jagannatha for saving her

life and giving her back to us. Bhaktin Jennifer who has been coming to our temple for a year now, also rode on the cart for the first time and enjoyed the ride. In all, 40 people rode on the cart this time.

The lovely utsav murtis of Lord Jagannatha, Lady Subhadra and Lord Baladeva were ushered in with due pomp and ceremony and installed on the float, and away the cart went at 9:30 AM. Throughout the day Their worship was carried out on the cart by His Grace Biram das for the 3rd consecutive year helped by Govinda das. Their Lordships were offered the noon 'bhoga,' and aratik, and at 4:30 pm fruits were offered to the accompaniment of kirtan and aratik.

Why do we take so much trouble to install Lord Jagannath on the cart and take Him for giving darshan? It is the Lord's desire! He gives darshan once a year to those souls who refuse to enter His temple and worship Him. Instead, in His Infinite Mercy, He comes out to give His darshan! Just see the munificence of the Lord! It is said that any one who pulls the rope of the Rath Yatra or offers obeisances or chants along with others or even just *sees* the Lord in the Yatra gets rid of ALL his/her sins of millions of lifetimes! And that is why the devotees take the Lord on the Rath Yatra. Thanks to His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada, this festival, once celebrated only in Orissa, India, is now celebrated all over the world, and San Francisco is one among the cities of the USA which has an official State Rath Yatra day!

Getting back to the cart- although the cart took the wrong direction initially and almost got stuck in the wrong parade, by Krishna's mercy everything went well, and the cart got on to the right parade and came before the 'Crew of New Orleans,' who were the judges for every cart. Everyone on our float was looking colorful in various animal masks [see pictures] and ecstatically chanting the Hare Krishna Maha Mantra. Throughout the ride, thereafter, peanuts, bagged by our dedicated Vaisnaves of New Talavana, were thrown to the crowds. For almost a month, every morning during the Srimad Bhagavatam class, M. Maharani Tulasi, M. Jayapatni [who has made a near miraculous recovery from kidney failure, via transplant], M. Mahalaxmi, M. Lila Avatara, Jayanti and Sridevi dasi continually bagged peanuts. Not to be outdone His Grace Dasarath Suta das and Bhakta Blake also joined in and later joyfully threw peanuts to the people.

Everyone was made to chant 'Hare Krishna' before they got a prize- throw. We had large signs that said, "Chant 'HARE KRISHNA' for a throw," and in response the crowd was loudly chanting 'HARE KRISHNAAAAA!' thus wiping away the sinful reactions of millions of lifetimes of sin! Just by taking the Holy Name ONCE one is so relieved! All glories to the Holy Name!

The regulars who know about us hold up large signs themselves, which say, "Throw me those Hare Krishna clothes!," and of course we oblige them by throwing them colorful saris, salwaar kameez, etc., which are received with a roar of approval. Incense is another hot favorite with so many asking for it. Even one single stick of incense is enough for them!

Next year we plan to have a better musical presentation for the Mardi Gras parade with kirtan music from around the world that incorporates stringed instruments, horns, and keyboard to appeal to the people of New Orleans, who are the original jazz people. We also want to thank so many devotees who gave so much to make it a success, and the list of donors follows:

His Grace Devala Rsi das- 500 hats.

Mr. Bill from Sun Products- \$300.00

M. Mohanasini- \$108.00

We also wish to thank all the devotees who work in the French Quarter, selling books, and collecting donations for Food For Life who gave donations ranging from \$25.00 to \$100.00 each.

His Grace Drumila das, who collected donations of 'laksmi' to pay the fees for the truck and truck driver and the insurance, as well as money to prepare and decorate the cart, personally donated

\$200.00. His Grace collected a total of \$1750.00 that was used for the Rath Yatra. All glories to his service! All glories to the devotees who worked so hard and so selflessly to distribute the Lord's mercy!

We returned to the New Orleans temple at 5.30 p.m. We express our thanks to the New Orleans temple for providing breakfast and lunch prasadam to all on the cart and dinner at the temple on return from the parade. We pray that together, every year we continue to do our small part in distributing Lord Jagannatha's mercy to all!

JAI LORD JAGANNATHA, THE LORD OF THE UNIVERSE, WHO GIVES HIS MERCY UNRESERVEDLY TO ALL FALLEN SOULS!

MARCH 2009

March 2nd – we sadly said good-bye to our Head Pujari, His Grace Adhrita das prabhu, his lovely wife, Sukanta Sakhi and their charming daughter Nityapriya who went back to India to take up another assignment there. While we wish them well, we simply pray that one day they will be back with us, giving us their inspiring association. We cannot forget their steady, dedicated service, their personal purity and their wonderful example of devotional service to the Deities. The congregation, which greatly benefited from M. Sukanta Sakhi's steady nurturing through phone calls, e-mails, and fliers miss her sorely and pray for her return along with her good husband to New Talavana. We miss you, prabhus! Please give us your kind association from time to time, at least by e-mail.

4. GAURA PURNIMA.

The Most Blessed Appearance Day of Lord Caitanya arrived on MARCH 10th. His Grace Mahendranatha das prabhu, disciple of Srila Prabhupada, who was one of the first devotees in the early 70s to come to the farm, led



an ecstatic kirtan playing the harmonium in praise of Lord Narasimhadeva. His Grace Prahlad Narasimha das prabhu, his two sons and his wife were the guests of honor for the festival. Vanamali played the harmonium and sang beautiful kirtans, while Cidananda played the mrdanga. His Grace Prahlad Narasimha das prabhu led an ecstatic kirtan and also gave a wonderful Gaura Purnima lecture. His Grace Doyamoy prabhu cooked the feast on that day with the help of His Grace Nikunja prabhu and made



delicious subjis and rice. M. Gaura baked a lovely 3-tier birthday cake for the Lord. Devotees also brought in individual preparations to number a total of 108 preps that were lovingly offered to the Lord.

Everyone had fasted all day, waiting for moonrise to come to celebrate the birth of Lord Caitanya. All were rewarded by the unveiling of the Deities in all Their Divine Splendor. There were gasps of admiration and delight as the Deities appeared in vivid green and yellow with the theme of bananas. Everyone went bananas after that! The whole altar was decorated with golden yellow bananas, the color of Lord Gauranga, and even Lord Jagannatha had lovely yellow bananas over His ears, on His forehead and on His arms. The pillars of the temple were decorated with, of course, bananas. Banana trees were brought in from New Orleans and tied to the pillars with bananas, and the trees looked as though they had suddenly sprouted there, laden with bananas to offer to Their Lord. His Grace Asoka Amrita das prabhu, as usual, sponsored the dress for the Deities, the flowers, garlands and decorations on the altar and then left for Hawaii. M. Lajja also donated some 'laksmi' for the flowers and many devotees offered gifts and 'laksmi' to Their Lordships.

Mother Mahalaksmi Radha dressed Sri Sri Radha-Radha Kanta, Mother Bhaktidhana dressed Sri

Sri Gaura Nitai, and M. Maharani Tulasi decorated the altar. These Vaisnaves are expert in dressing the Deities and have been doing so for over 25-30 years. All glories to their service! In spite of the fact that it was a weekday and an evening program, a number of guests attended Gaura Purnima. Mr. Mansukh Chudasama and his family came all the way from Destrehan, Louisiana and then Bhaktin Linda, Joe and Babe and Jennifer also came to partake of the mercy. In all, about 150 people were present to glorify the Lord, and Dasarath Suta das and M. Revati did a musical piece. M. Revati also offered massage to some devotees and did a first level Reiki course for some of them. After the festival, Prahlad prabhu and family left for Ecuador to visit their family whom they were going to see after 10 years.

5. HERB FEST

MARCH 28th. For over 15 years, Dvibhuja das prabhu and his wife have been regular attendees at the Annual Herb Fest and offer their wonderful herbal medicine to many people there. Jayanti had everything organized and set up the herbal medicine table. She is an able assistant, and His Grace Dvibhuja relies on her more and more to take care of the shop. She harvests the herbs, cleans and washes them and puts them into specially prepared bottles to extract the active principle of the herb. Later they are bottled and sent by mail to many people or sold over the counter at the shop. Herbal medicine is very popular for its efficacy, safety and lack of side-effects and because it can be used in conjunction with other medicines.

The temple also provides prasadam, and the food is eagerly awaited by the people who attend. From early morning we had people come up to us asking us if we had 'brought that lovely food.' Yes, we said. And the next question was, 'When will you serve it out?' 'As soon as we set up everything,' was the answer. And they could hardly wait. Some of them remembered the last year when they were served prasadam and said they had waited all year for this! In all we served out over 100 plates of prasadam.

APRIL 2009

6. A. SPRING GARDENING

On April 1st, the New Orleans devotees came over in a big group of with their wives and children and started their Spring gardening project to the accompaniment of rousing kirtan. The temple president, Ananta Gopala das, along with Ananta Sesa prabhu, Sukadeva prabhu, Bhaja Govinda das, Ranchor prabhu, Biram prabhu and many others cleaned, pulled weeds, planted, and mulched while some of the ladies cooked up a big feast which they all offered and enjoyed later on. They came again, 2 weeks later on April 14th, and planted all kinds of vegetables on a 1-acre patch. In all, about 40 people were involved in this vegetable garden project, something that each one of us will be forced to do in the years to come, given the way this world is going. So why not begin now?

New Talavana youth were not far behind, and they too have undertaken a spring gardening project on a 1-acre patch. Narayana das, his brother Prabhupada Charan das, Jayanti and Vishwambara began the work. Narayan das and Jagadvallabha also obtained a greenhouse in New Orleans [which was donated to us], dismantled it and brought it over to New Talavana and set it up again behind the temple. This greenhouse is to be used for planting seeds in winter and keeping the plants alive, ready for spring planting and also for harvesting new seeds from others for the next planting.

6. B. SENIOR MEMBER VERY ILL

Unfortunately, the coming of Spring did little to bring cheer to our senior-most member, His Grace, 72-year-old Dvijahari prabhu who is suffering from pleurisy that causes a collection of fluid in his lungs. It makes it difficult to breathe, and the operation carried out to drain it causes him a lot of pain. His Grace underwent another procedure recently to drain it, and experienced some relief in terms of pain, but the fluid reportedly is back and means another trip to the hospital. The biopsy* report is awaited. His son Narayan, a U.S Marine sergeant, who works in California, came over to be

with him, help him in the hospital and offer moral support and encouragement during the surgery, and after he left Narayan, [who is known as 'Da'] Prabhupada Carana, His Grace Candrabhanu prabhu and Bhakt Roy are assisting him in his daily needs as well as trips to the hospital. Now that Pundarik prabhu is back, he too has joined in visiting him and helping him. We are humbly requesting you all to please pray for His Grace's health and well-being to the Supreme Lord Sri Krishna Caitanya.

*As we put the finishing touches to this newsletter, we learn that the doctors have made the diagnosis of terminal lung cancer and given our resident about 12 months to live if he takes chemotherapy and about 9 months without it. Let us all come together to serve and pray for Dvijahari prabhu and to help him in any and every way we can. We can never tell what is going to happen. Many times patients have lived long after doctors wrote them off. However, it is always better to be prepared. When Srila Prabhupada was enacting his final pastimes on this earth, His Divine Grace warned all his disciples, "Don't think this will not happen to you." This is a fact. Death is certain and will come sooner or later. The question for all of us is, "Where will we go next?" The answer, "It all depends on one's consciousness at the time of death." This will carry us either into another body and another death and so on or to Krishna's abode and eternal life. The choice is ours to prepare for that time- 'ante narayanah smritih.'

7. RAMA NAVAMI.

APRIL 3rd. The appearance of Lord Ramachandra, Who is none other than the Supreme Personality of Godhead, as the ideal son, the ideal husband and ideal the ideal king, was ushered in with pomp and ceremony. Srila Prabhupada instructed us that the birth of Lord Ramachandra should be celebrated as we would the birth of Lord Krishna or Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu, as Lord Rama is none other than Lord Krishna. Early morning, at 7 AM devotees chanted the lovely hymn; 'Raghupati Raghava Raja Rama' for Darshan Aratik, and the picture of Lord Rama with His Eternal Consort, Sita, Brother Lakshmana, and faithful servant Hanuman was worshipped on the altar. Devotees fasted till sunset for the appearance of the Lord. Everyone came together at 6 PM to worship Lord Rama, and we had a nice kirtan led by our Temple President, His Grace Yogindra Vandana Dasa. This was followed by a short reading by our little Gurukuli, Draupadi about the extraordinary Lord Rama, and then Yogi Prabhu read about the appearance of the Lord with great devotion and had us all entranced with his dramatic reading. All of us listened enchanted to the story of the birth of Lord Rama-how His father Dasarath prayed and then performed a sacrifice and then had the Lord Himself advent in his family. The demigods were also praying to the Supreme Lord to please relieve them of the terror being unleashed by the demon Ravana. Lord Rama appeared in order to destroy Ravana, the demon, who was tormenting all the three worlds and had become very cruel due to his enormous material powers. Lord Ramachandra, being the Supreme Personality of Godhead, dispatched him without difficulty. But the trials and tribulations of Lord Rama, as He searches for his wife Sita, is a lesson in dharma and Vedic culture for all of us. The Deity of Lord Rama is worshipped not just in India, but also in Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Myanmar [called Burma before], Singapore and many more South East Asian countries proving that Vedic culture was not confined to India. His eternal servant, Hanuman, is a great devotee of the Lord and is eternally singing the praises of his dear Lord Ramachandra.

8. YOGA GROUP

APRIL 4th. Bhakta Arvin came over with his group of yoga enthusiasts to N.T. They practice 'sudarshan yoga,' a method of breathing propagated by the Art of Living Society. They did their 'kriya' from 10.30 am-12 noon, took part in the kirtan in which one of their members, Saroj, danced, and then they had prasadam with great pleasure.

There were also 3 students, one of whom was Sainath, who came from Baton Rouge. They also took part in the kirtan and honoring of prasadam. It was a great opportunity for preaching and sharing the Lord's mercy! Suratani Rangini, M. Maharani Tulasi, Yogi prabhu and M. Sridevi were around

to help them. The group said they had a very nice time in the 'peaceful atmosphere' of New Talavana and said that they would come again. You are always welcome, Arvin, with all your friends. Hare Krishna!

9. VYASA POOJA OF HIS HOLINESS JAYAPATKA SWAMI.

Our very dearly beloved Guru Maharaj, His Holiness Jayapataka Swami, was born on an Ekadashi. This year His Holiness' Vyasa Pooja was celebrated on APRIL 5th, Sunday which was Kamada Ekadashi. The program was slated to begin at 10.30 AM, but finally we began at 11.30 AM. All of us greatly appreciated the well-decorated Vyasasana of His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada and His Holiness Jayapataka Swami. The flowers, leaves and creepers seemed to be bowing down to their lotus feet, and rejoicing at their good fortune. M. Kalindi and M. Narasimha Laksmi showed us how much bhakti and love they have for the pure devotees of the Lord by their decorations. Local devotees offered their homage, and then it was time for the noon aratik. Imagine our delight when we found out that apart from our Sunday guests, a group of students from USM, Hattiesburg came over to fulfill the requirements of a college course. We concluded that this was another fine example of Guru Maharaj's mercy! His Holiness, who is an eternal associate of Lord Caitanya, is ALWAYS distributing his mercy to everyone, and this day of his Vyasa Pooja was no exception. These young students had the great good fortune of participating in the ceremonies.

After kirtan from 12 noon until 12.30, we had Suratani Rangini devi dasi, our Temple President's daughter who is now growing up into a lovely young girl, singing the prayers to Lord Narasimhadeva. At 12.45 PM or so, after the announcements and welcoming our guests with garlands, we continued with homages until 1.30 PM. This was followed by Puspanjali and Guru Pooja. M. Kaivalya Sundari devi dasi sang the prayers of Gurvastakam and led the kirtan with great enthusiasm. Enlivened by her, all of us sang with great fervor, humbly begging for Guru Maharaj's mercy in our hearts. JAI GURU MAHARAJ! JAI SRILA PRABHUPADA!

10. OTHER NEWS

Her Grace, M. Bhaktidhana and His Grace Candrabhanu prabhu, her good husband, were busy almost the whole first fortnight of April upgrading the guest facilities. The 'laksmi' for doing that came from timbering trees from land that we hope to sell/lease for lifetime leases to people so that they may have some security for tough economic times. After all, real wealth is in the land and cows! Working for Mother Bhoomi yields great blessings and also great rewards! The money from the trees also went to the ISKCON Gurukuli Fund, and we hope to upgrade roads and the kitchen facility.

Speaking of the kitchen, the Health Inspector came and certified our kitchen for another year. She found everything reasonably clean, and she found the cooked food at the correct hot temperature as required [140 degree F] and the stored produce also at the right cold temperature [40 F]. She recommended a new screen door and new racks in the refrigerator.

Her Grace, M. Gaura, who was never able to go back to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, decided to finally establish a permanent residence here at New Talavana by buying a trailer. We are very grateful to Her Grace for choosing us to be with, as she is a major part of the staff at New Talavana. Temple management, helping with the gurukula, cooking delectable preparations for our Deities, much to the delight of devotees, are just some of her talents. M. Gaura is also an excellent seamstress. Her Grace has stitched dresses for the Deities, the Deity curtains, the curtains over the windows in the temple room, dresses for the small murti of Srila Prabhupada and the decorations for the small vyasasana. Her wonderfully baked and decorated cakes come straight from the spiritual world! The 'bhakti' with which each cake is made and decorated leaves us all gazing in admiration and delight. All glories to her service!

His Grace Jayaram prabhu almost completed one of the pillars on the façade in front of the temple altars. We thank His Grace for all his hard work and bhakti to our Deities.

These very tough economic times- millions have been laid off, and there are no new jobs available- saw a number of requests for land from us at New Talavana. We would like to help people find security by having their plot of land and growing food. The Board is trying to accommodate the needs of the people. This is what Srila Prabhupada wants us to do- work the land, grow food, take care of cows, chant Hare Krishna, live simply and focus on going back Home, back to Godhead. **MAY WE ALL COME TOGETHER AND WORK TO SAVE OURSELVES!**

11. SUNDAY FEAST

APRIL 12th saw a happy family reunion for M. Jayapatni with her beautiful children. Dhruva arrived with his wife Jodi, Jaya came with Narayani, and along with Jayanti they will all be going to the Festival of Inspiration at New Vrindavana, May 8th-10th, 2009. It was a wonderful, special occasion for M. Jayapatni who has come through a trying time in the past two years and is now better thanks to a kidney transplant. We pray that Her Grace and her children always give their kind and inspiring association to all of us at New Talavana. Speaking of the Festival of Inspiration, the Grihastha Vision Team, of which M. Sridevi is a member, is presenting the first ever Vaisnava Marriage and Family Festival. For details please go to <http://www.dandavats.com/?cat=15>.

Our long-time, steady, generous cow protection program donors from Austin, TX drove for over 12 hours to be with us for the weekend. They attended mangal-aratik everyday, chanted 'japa,' walked around our lovely fields, toured the facilities, saw the cow barn, and soaked in the peaceful New Talavan atmosphere. And that was not all- they even sponsored the Sunday feast! THANK YOU SO MUCH, Mother Padma and Vitthalbhai Mistry prabhu. Your generous help has made a big difference to our cow protection program. May everyone be enlivened to protect Go-mata by your example! We pray that Lord Krishna showers His love and affection on you and your loved ones.

Our Baton Rouge friends who had come on April 4th also came on Sunday. Sainath was back with Ramkishore, Venkateshwar Rao and a few more student friends. They had brought with them their friend Farouq, who is a Muslim, and who came along with them to express his support and solidarity. Our Temple President was so delighted to have him at our temple that he exclaimed, 'Give him 2 garlands!' (rather than the customary one.)

We also had longstanding herb clients of His Grace Dvibhuja das as our guests. Shoney and T. J along with their father had come early in the morning and helped in cleaning the temple room with a cheerfulness that was infectious. Thank you so much! We really appreciate any help we get.

Premanjana das led the kirtan, and then His Grace Dvibhuja gave us a wonderful class on Bhagavad Gita As It is 8:16, reminding us that "from the highest to the lowest planet all are places of birth and death." Let us always remember that, chant Hare Krishna and go back Home, back to Godhead! Our life here is very short.

12. FUND RAISER.

In the first half of the month of April, Yogindra prabhu and Jayanti mailed out an 'Adopt-A-Cow' Capital Fund Raiser in a humble attempt to finance the protection of Lord Krishna's cows in these difficult economic times. Although the response is slow due to the problems of today's economy, many donors have tightened their belts and somehow contributed some 'laksmi.' We are very grateful for this help. We also humbly appeal to all, if you can afford it, and can make some adjustments in your budget, to please send in some 'laksmi' for the protection and care of Lord Krishna's cows. Lord Krishna, in turn takes care of those who take care of His most beloved animal, Mother Cow or Go-Mata. So if you can make a little sacrifice and/or save some money to send in to us we will be deeply thankful.

Why do cow protection programs need donations? A very good question to ask before you donate money. The reason is that, “we are forced to practice cow protection within the context of a perverted social and economic context,... the natural order has been turned topsy-turvy,’ and ‘a supportive community of devotees can at least partially make up for that lack so that the cows can be protected.” Also, “Krsna is watching the cow protectors and their supporters, and although the present struggle is very difficult, the spiritual success of the program is guaranteed.” Ref: <http://www.dandavats.com/?p=7142>. For a very illuminating analysis and answers please click on the link.

We take this opportunity to also remind all our dear readers, well-wishers and friends that the land taxes for 2009 amount to \$7500.00, due early January 2010. The ‘laksmi’ for last year’s taxes was finally collected in Jan-Feb of this year and we are very grateful to all who contributed to save Lord Krishna’s land, so dear to Him and to Srila Prabhupada.

Here is the list of donors:

1. His Grace Parampara das- \$100.00
2. Everest Consulting Co - \$201.00
3. Lajja devi dasi- \$200.00
4. Narayana das- \$108.00
5. His Grace Dvibhuja das- \$108.00
6. ISKCON New Orleans- \$ 501.00
7. His Grace Ramakeli das- \$ 108.00
8. Donald Harmon- \$100.00
9. Anonymous- \$ 108.00
10. Anonymous- \$ 108.00
11. Anonymous- \$ 300.00
12. His Grace Nanda Suta das and Sridevi dasi- \$251.00
13. Anonymous- \$ 108.00
14. S.K. Mindon \$201.00
15. Bhakt ‘Baba’ Bill- \$1008.00
16. Anonymous- \$ 108.00
17. Miriam- \$ 108.00
18. Anonymous- \$ 61.00
19. Anonymous- \$ 108.00
20. His Grace Doyamoy das- \$500.00
21. His Grace Yogindra prabhu, M. Maharani and family- \$ 500.00
22. His Grace Bhushaya das and M. Syamalata- \$ 108.00
23. Her Grace Jayapatni Gopi devi dasi and family- \$125.00
24. Beverly and Tyler Cobb- \$ 40.00
25. Anonymous- \$ 108.00
26. His Grace Adhrita das and family- \$ 108.00
27. Anonymous- \$ 1771.00
28. Vishwambara- \$ 300.00.

Again, thank you all so much! May Srila Prabhupada and Lord Sri Krishna Caitanya shower you with their mercy!

With this we come to an end of the news and events for the month of February, March and the first half of April 2009. We apologize for the delay in sending it out due to our writer and typist , Sridevi dasi being away in Mayapur, and then taking her own sweet time to get down to her service in spite of stern orders from the Temple President to show up and get on with it!

Thank you for your patience, and thank you for your patronage of our beloved temple.

Sincerely,
Yogindra Vandana Das Adhikari and
your humble servants at New Talavana.