

ISKCON Philadelphia Newsletter - 1/4/2016



Temple President Message

Hare Krsna!

All glories to Srila Prabhupada!

All glories to the devotees of ISKCON Philadelphia!

Happy New Year!

2015 has come to a close and we have accomplished much, not the least of which includes:

- Progress with our new temple room project (75% of the funds have been collected and the majority of building schematics are approved)
- Regular university preaching
- Increased volume in our book distribution programs
- Establishment of a Strategic Planning team

- And many wonderful festivals!

This was a nice offering to Srila Prabhupada on the 50th anniversary of his arrival in the West in 1965.

2016 will be the 50th anniversary of the incorporation of ISKCON in New York on July 13, 1966. We will offer our new Temple room along with an increase in book distribution to honor Srila Prabhupada's accomplishment of establishing the mission to fulfill the desire of Lord Caitanya; *"In every town and village in the world, the Holy Name of Krsna will be chanted"*.

Srila Prabhupada's guru maharaja order him, *"...if you ever get money, print books and distribute them throughout the world."*

During Srila Prabhupada's physical presence, his 5,000 disciples sold millions of books and magazines throughout the world within 11 years. Srila Prabhupada said that from that distribution, Vrindavan, Bombay, and other temples in India were built. Although temple construction was not his main business, as a result of so much book publication and selling, these temples manifested.

We are increasing the beauty of our New Nilachala mandir by first adding the new temple room. More renovation work will be completed on the other existing buildings afterwards. We will also increase the book distribution, and in this way fulfill all desires of His Divine Grace. This will be auspicious for all of us and all our endeavors.

anena prasavisyadhvam, esa vo 'stv ista-kama-dhuk

"be thou happy by this yajna because its performance will bestow upon you everything desirable for living happily and achieving liberation" Bg 3.10

Srila Prabhupada has hinted at this in a a letter to Ramesvara, Sept. 1, 1975, Vrindavan:

"You have taken seriously the publishing and also the distribution of these books, and that is the success of our mission. You have taken seriously this work and I know my Guru Maharaja is pleased with you because he wanted this. So by this endeavor you will all go back home , back to Godhead."

Let us pray for the blessing of the New Year to open our new temple room and increase the distribution of books in Philadelphia.

I wish you all success in 2016 in all your Krsna conscious endeavors.

your servant,
Sikhi Mahiti das

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Calendar

Sunday 1/3 - 4pm

Sunday Feast Program

Wednesday 1/5 - 6pm

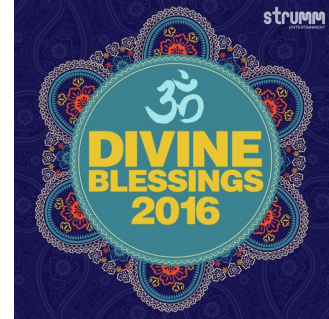
Wednesday Kirtan

Thursday 1/6 - 7pm

Miracle on Second Avenue Book Reading

Sunday 1/10 - 4pm

Sunday Feast Program



Weekly Sastra

na tv evāhaṁ jātu nāsaṁ
na tvaṁ neme janādhīpāḥ
na caiva na bhaviṣyāmaḥ
sarve vayam ataḥ param

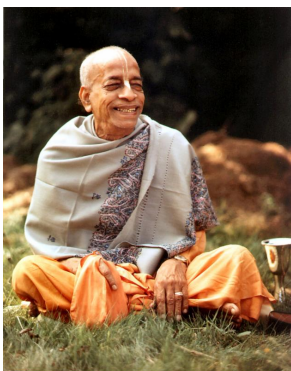
"Never was there a time when I did not exist, nor you, nor all these kings; nor in the future shall any of us cease to be."

Bhagavad-gītā 2.12



The Spiritual Master and The Disciple

By: His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada



The spiritual master extinguishes the blazing fire of material existence:

Constant transmigration of the soul from one body to another is the cause of suffering in material existence. This conditional life in material existence is called samsara. One may perform good work and take his birth in a very nice material condition, but the process under which birth and death takes place is like a terrible fire. Sri

Visvanatha Cakravarte Thakura, in his prayer to the spiritual master, has described this. Samsara, or the repetition of birth and death, is compared to a forest fire. A forest fire takes place automatically, without anyone's endeavor, by the friction of dried wood, and no fire department or sympathetic person can extinguish it. The raging forest fire can be extinguished only when there is a constant downpour of water from a cloud. The cloud is compared to the mercy of the spiritual master. By the grace of the spiritual master the cloud of the mercy of the Personality of Godhead is brought in, and then only, when the rains of Krsna consciousness fall, can the fire of material existence be extinguished. *Srimad-Bhagavatam 3.21.17*

Weekend Warriors and Marathon News



Congratulations Weekend Warriors for Reaching Your Goal!!

December was a Marathon month to remember as book distribution teams formed to make this the most successful December in recent history for ISKCON Philadelphia with an astounding 2,532 books distributed. With a several hundred percent increase on prior years, the Weekend Warriors are launching into 2016 with vigor and enthusiasm to surpass all prior numbers.

Special thanks go out to the hard work and dedication of so many devotees and families. If you are eager to keep the momentum going or are interested in getting involved with this dynamo team, please text Mangal-arati at 484-273-9700 or email her at mangalarati@iskconphiladelphia.com.

An Ecstatic New Years Eve Celebration at ISKCON Philadelphia

Last Thursday, Philadelphia devotees came out on a mild winter night to celebrate an auspicious New Year's Eve and look toward 2016 which marks the 50th Anniversary of the incorporation of ISKCON.

The evening began with a special reading from Prabhupada's Lilamrta, Volume 2, which chronicles the process of bringing Prabhupada's mission into fruition and forming an organization around spreading Krsna consciousness. '

We then enjoyed a delicious vegetarian meal before floating away in 3 hours of blissful kirtan. At midnight, we were graced with a special



midnight arati, cleansing our eyes and our hearts with the vision of the Lord to usher us into a new year.

Many thanks to all who helped make this the largest New Year's Eve celebration in years at the temple.

Wishing you many blessings for a Krsna consciousness year ahead. Hare Krsna!



The Seven Purposes of ISKCON

His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada incorporated the International Society for Krishna Consciousness in 1966 with seven explicit purposes.

1. To systematically propagate spiritual knowledge to society at large and to educate all people in the techniques of spiritual life in order to check the imbalance of values in life and to achieve real unity and peace in the world.
2. To propagate a consciousness of Krishna (God), as it is revealed in the great scriptures of India, Bhagavad-gita and Srimad-Bhagavatam.
3. To bring the members of the Society together with each other and nearer to Krishna, the prime entity, thus developing the idea within the members, and humanity at large, that each soul is part and parcel of the quality of Godhead (Krishna).
4. To teach and encourage the sankirtana movement, congregational chanting of the holy name of God, as revealed in the teachings of Lord Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu.
5. To erect for the members and for society at large a holy place of transcendental pastimes dedicated to the personality of Krishna.
6. To bring the members closer together for the purpose of teaching a simpler, more natural way of life.
7. With a view towards achieving the aforementioned purposes, to publish and distribute periodicals, magazines, books and other writings.

For more information on the incorporation of ISKCON, please visit Krishna.com.

Construction Update

The new temple construction continues to advance as we work steadily with the various teams involved.

As part of the regular board meeting last month, the following resolution was made:

- The Board has approved as currently constituted the construction of the new temple hall.



On December 7th, the construction committee met with the board and updated them on the progress. The question/answer session lasted for about 2 hours.

We are in the final stretch of the approval process by the city and expect final approval in the first quarter of 2016 which will enable us to begin construction.

[Make a donation to the New Temple Construction Project](#) and be a part of this auspicious undertaking.

Temple Financial Report

Each month, we post the temple's financial status on the bulletin board outside of the temple office. For November Operations and Construction financials, please click below:

[November Temple Financials](#)

Quick Links

[Construction Donations](#)

[ISKCON Desire Tree - For Downloadable Lectures](#)

[Krishna.com](#)