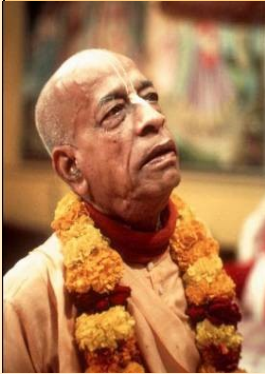


# Devasadan Mandir Monthly

## Our Little Vaishnavas spread the holy name to Heritage Senior Center

*Anyone's special talent should be engaged in the service of the Lord, and thereby become successful in life. We are not meant for learning something new for the service of the Lord; but we have to engage whatever talents we have already got.*

-Srila Prabhupada



It was really a wonderful experience to coordinate the Senior Center Program. When I was given this responsibility I accepted as I wanted to render some simple service at the lotus feet of Sri Sri Radha Kunj Bihari. I thought it would be very easy to make an appointment for the program all I have to do is to make a call and set up the time. But when I made my first call to senior center I got a "No". One of them said its FLU season so better not to have this kind of program, another said may be in future. Never really thought that they could deny. I was disappointed, but I just moved on and started making more calls. And after a few calls by Sri Krishna's mercy I could set up the program at the Heritage Senior Citizen Center.

We were at the center on November 27th at 4:00pm. All our kids were excited and performed kirtan with much enthusiasm. Everyone appreciated the kids energy level. One lady said she heard the Mantra long time ago in the plane when she was young. and then at the end kids distributed prasadam and simple cards made by our kids with our Radha Kunjabihari pictures on them and the mahamantra written inside. We gave few Srila Prabhupad's books for their library. We were invited to come back to explain on what kids performed. It was fun distributing the lord mercy and I couldn't have done it without the mercy of the lord and his devotees. I would personally thank my husband, devotees and our little vaihnavas for their support and enthusiasm.

Looking forward to serve again ...  
Meenu Gupta.

## Srila Bhakti Siddantha Saraswati Thakur

Hanuman Prasad Durina

Age: 11yrs

Bimala Prasāda appeared on February 6, 1874, in Jagannātha Puri. By age 25, he was a renowned scholar of math, astronomy, philosophy, international history, and Sanskrit. At that time he attended an association called the August Assembly in Calcutta, which studied philosophical and theological topics. Around this time he had also opened a school named Saraswāta Chatuspati and published several documents on Vedic astronomy. He accepted the renounced order of sannyasa, taking the name Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati and founded the Gaudiya Math. He initiated many disciples, and was such a powerful debater that he was known as the lion guru. (Continued on page 4)

**The Walking Monk**  
By: Syamanandi Dasi, Age 12.



The transcen-dental appearance of His Holiness Bhaktimarga Swami filled the room with a radiant glow, condensed with spiritual-tea and



(only people who came to the program will understand) evaporating all material thoughts, feelings, and desires contaminating the atmosphere. He was holding kartals and clutching the beloved Krsna book; written by the blood and tears of the ever compassionate and merciful A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada. Bhaktimarga Swami picked up his kartals with a sweet smile, and started singing a lively melody of the Mahamantra. All of the devotees immediately jumped in. Throughout the transcendental kirtan, many devotees' minds wandered to the previous day's lecture. It had been about why Bhaktimarga Swami is called the Walking Monk. If you don't already know, Maharaja is famous for walking across Canada (and back) on foot, multiple times now. He talked about his realizations, his inspirations, and told amusing little stories about what happened along the way. Bhaktimarga Swami has walked across (and back) Canada 3 times; along the Trans Canada Highway, which is the world's longest continuous maintained road. He is a consistent feature on The Longest Road; a recent National Film Board documentary detailing the history of the people who shaped or were shaped by the Trans Canada Highway. Maharaja likes to share his unique experiences and fond memories of the 16,000 km journey in his blog: <http://thewalkingmonk.blogspot.com/>.

Bhaktimarga Swami called us all back to the present time and place with a thunderous end to his blissful kirtan. His jolly attitude clearly expressed that this was not going to be a startlingly enlightening spiritual lecture, drawing us all closer, waking us up, like a hint of peppermint slapped us fresh in the face. We inhaled the sweet, pure air like we just couldn't get enough of the spiritual atmosphere, as the lively Swami softly ruffled through the pages in his book. He flipped to the tale of *Delivering the Wives of the Brahmanas Who Performed Sacrifices* (Ch. 23, pg. 229) and surprised us all with a quirky twist. "Today's program will be a little different," he announced. "As I read the story, I will leave blanks in for specific words. Your job is to guess the word as I act it out." Many devotees chuckled in amusement already. "Just call out the word you think would fit; corresponding with my actions. Ready?" He asked.

We all smiled in anticipation.

"Alright then, here we go," Maharaja began by clearing his throat. "The morning passed, and the cowherd boys were very hungry because they had not eaten breakfast. They immediately approached~" He paused abruptly and put up two calloused hands in a flute-playing position.

"Krsna!" Several devotees cried out. Maharaja nodded approvingly and went on with a smile.

"~and~" He stopped again. Bhaktimarga Swami suddenly sat up, his posture very straight, and positioned his hands so it looked like he was holding a club. He held himself with a mighty, confident air.

"Balarama!" Even more devotees called out, catching on to the game now.

The program went on in this manner with many, many delighted giggles, several hearty chuckles, and quite a few belly-bursting, knee-slapping chortles of laughter! As we got into the game, the amusement of both the devotees and the Swami increased as he added more and more quirks and twists. On some of the words that were harder to guess, Bhaktimarga Swami grinned appreciatively at the ecstatic devotee who got it right. But on a particular one of these words, Maharaja added something new. When Hanuman guessed a



very difficult word correctly, Maharaja exclaimed, “Very good! Here’s a *samosa!*” and threw an imaginary *samosa* at Hanuman, resulting in the entire Bhaktivriksha exploding into flurries and fits of transcendental laughter.

After Maharaja “ran out of samosas”, Gokul Chandra Prabhu guessed a word accurately. So Bhaktimarga Swami resolved; “Hey! You’re South Indian, right? Here, a *dosa!*” If possible, the crowd erupted into even louder giggles this time; as Maharaja tossed a crisp *dosa* to Gokul Chandra Prabhu.

The game went on with imaginary pizzas, *dosas*, and *samosas* thrown at lucky guessers. Maharaja was also a very enthusiastic actor. For the word “bank”, he acted out evil people gesturing to others from behind counters, sneakily giving them money, and people shooting each other and other sinful activities. This itself was hilarious, not to mention

the fact that in context, he used the word bank from “the bank of the Yamuna”! Krsna, Krsna! Another word devotees almost started crying from laughter with was the word “tail”. Maharaja had stood up and pointed to his bottom, gesturing for a “tail”! Another favorite was “the lotus feet”. Bhaktimarga Swami repeatedly (as the phrase came up many times) held up little Raghav’s foot high in the air, sending devotees rolling around on the floor, hooting and several snorting.

Maharaja concluded his very special program by acknowledging the fact that nobody fell asleep. “I didn’t see any peepers that took a break”, he complimented. “Although I did see a few yawns,” he challenged; not wanting to let us get too bug-headed, “It was better than yesterday!” He rolled his eyes. We all laughed weakly; our systems didn’t seem to have an endless supply of energy for humor, like the witty Swami’s seemed to. All in all, it was a very cleverly designed program, one that I’m sure none of the devotees will ever forget. I would like to officially thank His Holiness Bhaktimarga Swami on behalf of all the Devasadan Mandir devotees, for blessing us all with his spiritual presence and fun way to look at things. Please excuse me for any thing I might’ve said or done to offend anyone or anything. Haribol! Thank You!



### Devotee Profile

This month we have Mother Cintamani for our 'devotee profile of the month'. She was initiated on Wednesday, May 14, 1969 by our ISKCON founder Acharya Srila Prabhupada at Columbus, Ohio. She was just a freshman when she got initiated.

Mother Cintamani's route back to Krishna for this lifetime is interesting and was realized when she was in her high-school. Since then she had been searching for Supreme God, praying to Jesus to guide her, visiting so many churches. She had already turned a vegetarian then which is no wonder for she was on an enlightened path already. By Krishna's will she had been visiting a preaching center at Columbus which was administered by a devotee named Pradyumna during the early months of 1969. Pradyumna Prabhu advised her to write a letter to Srila Prabhupada to seek answers to her queries, and in April she had a reply from Prabhupada and it seemed that all her doubts were being cut off by sword of *bhakti* and knowledge gradually. Finally when she met Prabhupada all her doubts were dispelled and in May she got initiated and at same time got married. Her life was in a fast track since she was initiated. She personally cooked prasadam, washed clothes, and made garlands for Srila Prabhupada at Ohio and New Vrindavan.

On the instruction of her spiritual master, she went to Tokyo to open the first temple and was promised by Srila Prabhupada that whoever goes to Tokyo he would personally come to take that devotee back home, back to Godhead. She has also lived in other temples at LA, Mumbai, Hong Kong, Philippines, when many of them were in their initial stages. She was actively involved in the pioneer days of our movement. The last darshan she had of Srila Prabhupada before his departure from the material world was at our Devsadhan Temple in 1976.

At our temple, we are very fortunate to taste delicious *Maha-Prasadam* that she cooks for deities. She performs many other wonderful services at our temple; she dresses our Lord Jagannath six times a week. After her husband took sanyas in 1972, Prabhupada told her "*Make Lord Jagannath your husband, Balaram as son and Subhadra as daughter*". Jagannath is life and soul to her. Mother Cintamani is indeed an inspiring devotee and would like to encourage everyone to continue on this path to Krishna which at times is easy and at times difficult, but she assures it all gets easier as we advance in bhakti. She also stresses out that it is important to learn from our mistakes and be compassionate to ourselves and Krishna will for sure help us if we continue doing what we are ought to do. Finally we all know in Kaliyug we are constantly surrounded by Maya and hence finally on this closing note we are inspired by her kind words which she expresses with sweet smile, "*Keep chanting, do your best*". *Hari Bol*.

### Srila Bhakti Siddantha Saraswati Thakur (Continued from page 1)



A nice pastime in Bimala's childhood shows us how firm his conviction could be. One day his father Bhaktivinoda Thakur bought some nice mangos to be offered to the deities, and Bimala ate the bhoga mangos. So when his father found out that he had eaten bhoga, he became mad and told him never to do it in the future. Therefore Bimala took an oath that he would never eat a mango again, and he never did. That is why we never offer mangos to Srila Bhaktisiddhanta on his appearance day.

Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati was a strong minded man and he defeated every one that dared to debate him. He battled vehemently against the sahajiyas and even when he was a child he made an oath never to come within one hundred feet of a sahajiya. By his order, his dear disciple, A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, fulfilled Chaitanya's prophecy that the Holy

Name of Krishna should be heard in every town and village in the world. We must all be very grateful to Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati for his mercy upon us.



*Please come and attend our Sunday feasts!*

The Bhaktivedanta Cultural Centre

383 Lenox Ave

Detroit, MI 48215