

## IMPORTANT DATES

**9 August**  
Gayathri Mahayajna

**22 August**  
Mahanavagraha, 3am  
R400 per family

**28 August**  
Varaluxmi Pooja

**29 August**  
Agasthiar Pournami

**30 August**  
Gita Week starts



Birthday Hawan for Babaji



Spiritual Darlings' tribute



Party time!

**When people  
are rude to you  
they reveal  
who they are,  
not who you are.  
Don't take it  
personally.**



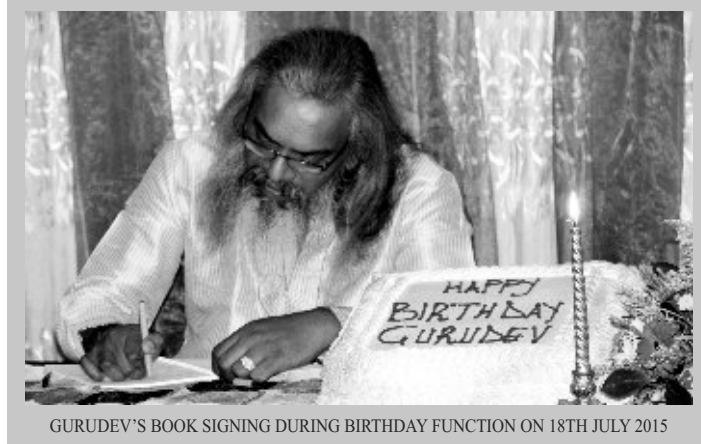
SMILE, IT'S FREE



ISSUE 3 JULY 2015

# GURU NEWS

## *Lighting up your life*



GURUDEV'S BOOK SIGNING DURING BIRTHDAY FUNCTION ON 18TH JULY 2015

## Gurudev turns a youthful 62

DONOVAN NAIR

**G**ayathri Peedam of South Africa's revered Spiritual Master, Swami Shankarananda Maharajji turned a youthful 62 years on 15 July, traditionally an auspicious day on the organisation's calendar.

Gurudev's wish was that the occasion be a simple one as he graciously used his 62<sup>nd</sup> birthday celebration to raise funds to feed the rishis in India, a spiritual task to which Gurudev has committed himself on a monthly basis.

The organising committee swung into action by transforming the ashram into a 'party-like place' with beautifully draped décor, soothing music in the background, a birthday cake, and the aroma of exquisitely prepared cuisine that set the stage for an entertaining evening.

A hawan at the Babaji shrine preceded the formalities in the ashram. With programme director, Desika Moodley, taking charge of matters, the evening's proceedings started off with the temple's 'Spiritual Darlings' leading us in prayer and a birthday song in honour of Gurudev.

Radhika Balaram delivered a moving address in which she shared her personal experiences as a spiritual aspirant with Gurudev as her Spiritual Master.

Gurudev's eagerly awaited birthday message was filled with anecdotes and trademark humour which captivated his audience.

www.gayathripeedam.com  
correspondence@gayathripeedam.com

Monthly newsletter  
for devotees  
of the  
Gayathri Peedam

### Aspirants ...

comes from  
two words  
viz  
**ASPIRE**  
[to work towards  
something]  
and  
**ANTS**  
the perfect example  
of team work

Therefore, to be an  
aspirant we first need  
to be like ants working  
together to our goals.

Even the smallest  
contribution will add  
value.

Lets all be spiritual  
aspirants...

something to  
think about..  
Om guru.

## MANIFEST SMILES

Invest in our food trust and  
help us feed the needy.



**SHANKARANANDA  
food trust**

A GAYATHRI PEEDAM INITIATIVE 010-137 NPO

good people with a vision  
beyond race, beyond religion...

Chat to Seelan,  
Prathna or  
Radhika for  
more info on how  
to get involved.

Saturday July 18, 2015

# Guru's birthday message

SWAMI SHANKARANANDA

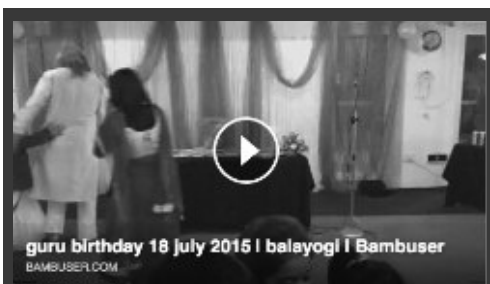
Most of you know my feelings about birthdays, and most of you know very well that birthdays are not unusual. Everyone of you has one of them. Mathematically, they come at the same time every year. That never changes. And they happen whether you want them or not. So here I stand, on the same time as my birthday. Some time during July I wanted to hide the truth, but then I know the truth will set me free, so here I am at 62 years old. I thank God for reaching this age happy, blessed and contented. My masters and God might not have given me all that I wanted but at least they sent me all that I needed most of my life, and that's all of you.

My life wasn't a bed of roses, bringing many obstacles and difficulties, including being in many hospitals. But I am forever grateful for the family that loves me so much, taking care of me, standing by me through every difficult moment in my life with all that has happened in my experiences, made me stronger in attitude and gratitude. Thanks to the Gayathri family for staying with me, fighting my battles, loving me for who I am – thanks to my friends, the real ones and the so-called real ones.

Tonight I've reached 62. 62 birthdays – that's a whole lot of birthdays in one's life. I remember when I was 26 thinking how I would look at 62, and here I am looking good. At this point I thank all of you who understand me and remain with me despite my weaknesses, my stubbornness and, of course, my being an irritating fellow. To those who've turned their backs on me, thank you, since that has taught me and helped me to value the ones with me more.

This morning I looked up at the sky and asked my father, "Dad, tell me something about presence". He said, "Son, forget about the past, you can't change it. Forget about the future, you cannot predict it. And, most of all, forget about the present – nobody's bringing one to you today". I then turned to my computer and typed, "Today is my birthday, I am 62. What do you say?" The reply from the computer was this: "You need an upgrade urgently!" Then I went outside, spoke to Booka, told him I was 62, and he asked me, "Guru, what is the reason for your long life?" I thought about it for a while, then I said, "I suppose it's because I was born a long time ago". Then he asked me, "Guru, how do you know you're getting old?" I replied immediately. "Booka, when the candles on the cake cost more than the cake, then you know you're old."

I want all of you to know that age is a question of mind over matter – if you don't mind it really doesn't matter. To all of you: don't worry about temptation. As you grow older it starts to avoid you. My message to all of you tonight is this: don't make spirituality your destination, make it your way of life. Thank you all for coming, thank you for being here to make me happy and to spend this joyous moment with me. It is these moments that are the true reason for this celebration. God bless all of you.



Remember to watch our Friday Service and other poojas on our live streaming channel at <http://bambuser.com/channel/balayogi> if you can't make service or if you just want to relive the Peedam Experience



## Guru's Meditation CD Remastered

Now available for R150 from temple shop. Limited copies available.

