



International Society for Krishna Consciousness
Founder-Acharya His Divine Grace A.C.
Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada



**KRISHNA-GEMEINSCHAFT
SCHWEIZ**

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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HARE KRISHNA!

This report is the result of a collective effort by a number of individuals, and I would like to sincerely thank all of them for their support. This year's edition appears in an evolved form compared to previous years, both in content and in design with the aim to further improve informative communication within our community.

Good communication is essential for understanding and trust. This applies between two people or within a community of hundreds, as in the Krishna-Gemeinschaft Schweiz (KGS). With understanding and trust, cooperation can flourish, and it is cooperation, aimed at collective spiritual upliftment, that lies at the heart of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's sankirtana movement.

Based on Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's teachings, Srila Prabhupada, the founder-Acharya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), outlined a holistic framework for devotional community life in the Seven Purposes of ISKCON (see page 5), which form the foundation of the activities of KGS. This annual report offers an overview of the temple's activities and developments. It is structured around the main departments of the temple: Deity Worship, Education, Events, and Outreach. Enjoy reading!

My sincere apologies to all those whose contributions could not be properly acknowledged in this booklet due to its limited number of pages. Fortunately, the unlimited Lord, by His omnipotence, takes note of every service rendered to Him and His devotees.

Yours in service,

Damodar Prasad Das

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SEVEN PURPOSES OF ISKCON

- 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, natural way of life.
- 7 With a view towards achieving the aforementioned purposes, to publish and distribute periodicals, magazines, books and other writings.



GENERAL UPDATES

ORGANIZATION, MEMBERS & MORE

GBC HANDOVER

In 2025, an important change took place in the leadership of the German-speaking ISKCON Zone. After more than 20 years of dedicated service, Dina Sharana Devi Dasi stepped down from her role as GBC Zonal Secretary and was honored with the title of GBC Emerita for her many years of devotion and care for the Yatra.

We are happy that Krishna Premarupa Prabhu was confirmed as her successor and has taken on the responsibility for ISKCON in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and Liechtenstein. Many in our community know him well, and after years of service and preparation, he is now continuing this work as Area GBC.

This thoughtful handover brings both continuity and fresh energy, and we are grateful to both Dina Sharana Devi Dasi and Krishna Premarupa Prabhu for their service to Srila Prabhupada's mission.



Krishna Premarupa and Dina Sharana

FOUNDING OF ISKCON SWITZERLAND

In November, an important step was taken for the future of Krishna consciousness in Switzerland with the founding of ISKCON Switzerland, a new umbrella organization for the Swiss Yatra. As one of the founding members, Krishna-Gemeinschaft Schweiz (ISKCON Zürich) joined ISKCON Langenthal, the Swiss Tamil Krishna Society, and the Govinda Restaurant Locarno in creating this platform to strengthen cooperation and coordination of preaching activities across the country.

This development supports Krishna Tempel Zürich's long-term vision of working closely with other Vaishnava communities in Switzerland to expand Srila Prabhupada's mission in a unified and harmonious way.

More members are expected to join this umbrella organization in the near and distant future.

BOARD & TEMPLE ADMINISTRATION

After many years of dedicated service on the Krishna-Gemeinschaft Schweiz association board, Krishna Premarupa and Bharati stepped down from their positions at the annual assembly in February. Bhaktya Labhya, Damodar Svarup, Sri Gour Rupa, and Rasashraya Rama were voted into the board by the members of the assembly. Damodar Prasad took over from Krishna Premarupa as head of the board. With these changes, the composition of the board now corresponds to the organizational chart with its department heads, helping to strengthen clarity and efficiency in the temple's leadership structure.

As of 1 September 2025, several changes took place in the temple leadership. Siksastakam assumed the role of Vice-President on an interim basis, succeeding Vrindavan Candra Prabhu, who stepped down from the Association Board. Sachisuta, head of the Deity Worship Department, joined the Board, representing this key area of the temple. Adikeshava joined the management team as Assistant to the Temple Leadership, supporting the President and Board in daily operations. At the end of November, Siksastakam concluded his service as Vice-President on an interim basis, following his decision to relocate abroad.

EMPLOYMENTS

During the general assembly, the members were informed about the need to employ devotees for certain positions in order to maintain the daily functions of the temple, due to the current lack of ashram residents. This was presented as part of the 2025 budget plan, which was approved by the assembly. The situation became more critical during the year when Damodar Prasad announced that he would be moving out of the temple ashram.

For the purpose of strengthening the administration, Adikeshava, a senior devotee with management qualifications, was employed as general manager. His involvement proved to be crucial for maintaining the daily functions of the temple, and therefore the executive board and Adikeshava agreed to continue with this cooperation for the time being.

MEMBERS

By the end of the year, the Krishna-Gemeinschaft Schweiz counted 200 members, including both active service participants and regular financial contributors.

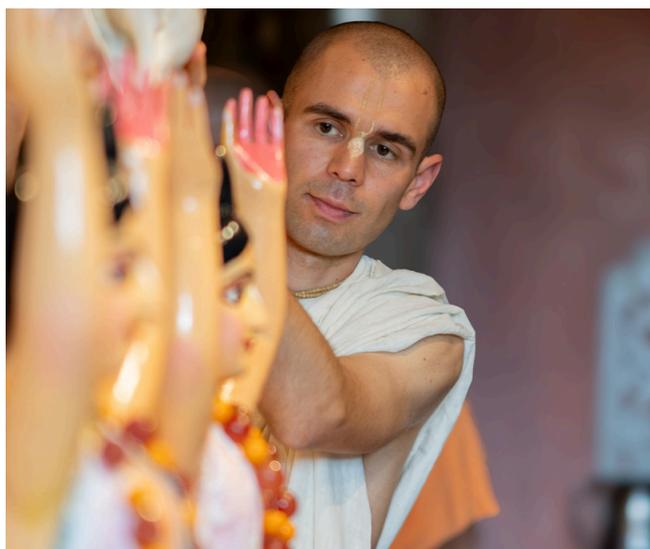
200
MEMBERS

ASHRAM RESIDENTS

The following devotees left the ashram during the year: Anadi Gaurangi at the beginning of the year (returning to her home in Latvia after over three years of ashram life), Damodar Prasad (concluding his brahmacharya ashram phase), and Vallabha Sena at the end of December (moving to Mayapur).



Anadi Gaurangi



Vallabha Sena

By the end of 2025, the permanent full-time residents at the temple were Krishna Premarupa (present about six months of the year while traveling for the other six), Adikeshava, Maha Krishna Nam, Siksastakam, Nitya Seva, Albina, Yamuna (in India until March 2026), Shyamasundari and Milly.

In January 2026, Siksastakam and Nitya Seva will be leaving Zurich to continue their service as assistants to their spiritual masters, Sivarama Swami and Prahladananda Swami respectively.

In addition, Guru Nistha, a Ukrainian refugee, spends a significant amount of time at the temple, and Vrindavan Chandra stays regularly two nights per week (from Sunday to Monday and from Wednesday to Thursday).

ONLINE MEMBERS ASSEMBLY

In September, an online members' meeting was held to strengthen communication and exchange between the community and the Board. The meeting provided a space for questions, ideas and discussion about the future of the temple. It also marked the start of a plan to hold such dialogue meetings on a more regular basis in addition to the Annual General Assembly. The Assembly counted some 30 participants.

SPECIAL GUESTS

Disciples of

Srila Prabhupada

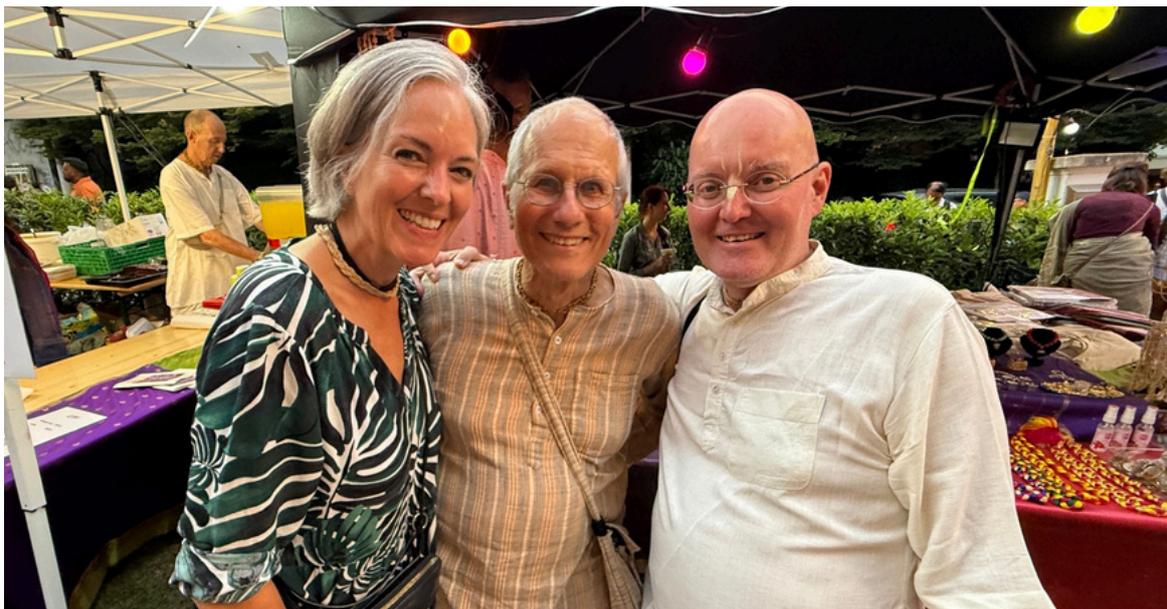
Sacinandana Swami
 Prahladananda Swami
 Bhakti Raghava Swami
 Bhakti V.V. Narasimha Swami
 Krishna Ksetra Swami
 Jananivas Prabhu
 Kripamoya Prabhu
 Sri Guru Carana Padma Mataji
 Rohini Suta Prabhu
 Bada Haridas Prabhu
 Kosarupa Mataji
 Pancharatna Prabhu
 Akhandadhi Prabhu
 Trai Prabhu
 Guru Gauranga Prabhu
 Akhila Prabhu
 Purusottama Prabhu
 Citrakara Prabhu

Sannyasis

Atmanivedana Swami
 Bhakti Vasudeva Swami
 Bhakti Mukunda Swami
 Bhakti Narasimha Swami
 Sri Krishna Chaitanya Swami
 S.B. Keshava Swami
 Bhakti Sarvajna Gauranga Swami

Others

Praghosa Prabhu
 Sarvabhauma Prabhu
 Mukunda Datta Prabhu
 Bhadra Prabhu
 Devaki Mataji
 Vrajendra Kumar Prabhu
 Kaunteya Prabhu
 Radha Govinda Mataji
 Vraja Vilas Prabhu
 Tara Prabhu
 Sundar Gopal Prabhu
 Jagannatha Priya Prabhu
 Damodar Prabhu
 Madan Sundar Prabhu
 Haresh Govinda Prabhu
 Jayananda Prabhu
 Akincana Krishna Prabhu
 Narahari Prabhu
 Gaurahari Prabhu
 Vaijayanti Mataji
 Mahasringa Prabhu



**Nitya Kishori, Radhe Syama & Govinda, the KFK team
RELAUNCH OF KRISHNAS FREUNDESKREIS**

In September, the Krishnas Freundeskreis magazine was relaunched in full color and in a new format. The official presentation took place during the Srila Prabhupada Memorial Festival at Krishna Tempel Zürich, where the new magazine was introduced by the editorial and graphic team Radhe Syama, Govinda Prabhu and Nitya Kishori and distributed to the community. The magazine is scheduled to appear quarterly and will be sent to members by mail.

TEMPLE TOURS

During the year, around 50 guided temple tours were conducted for student groups ranging from primary school to university level. Each visit included a philosophical introduction, a guided temple tour, participation in devotional activities, prasadam and a question-and-answer session. The tours were led by Gaura Lila, Sachisuta, Siksastakam and Damodar Prasad, with Yamuna joining the team after completing her guide training.



Student group during a temple tour

INFRASTRUCTURE

SALE OF CHÂTEAU DE BELLEVUE

In April, the Schweizerische Stiftung für Krishna-Bewusstsein, the legal owner of the temple building, informed the Krishna-Gemeinschaft Schweiz that the sale of the Château de Bellevue property near Dole, France, had been successfully completed in 2024. The property, originally acquired in 1993 for a planned temple, farming, and retreat project, had been rented or remained vacant for many years after the original vision could not be realized. Following a lengthy sales process, a notarized contract was concluded and the property was sold for EUR 510,622 (net).

The proceeds are currently held by the French holding company to settle local obligations and will then be transferred to the Swiss foundation for the repayment of the Zurich temple mortgage, after which the holding company will be dissolved.

MORTGAGE

Through the combined efforts of the Schweizerische Stiftung für Krishna-Bewusstsein, the Krishna-Gemeinschaft Schweiz, the Swiss Tamil Krishna Society, and the Bhakti Retreat team, the mortgage on the temple building was reduced from CHF 480,000 to CHF 70,000 by the end of 2025. Plans are in place to fully pay off the mortgage in 2026, in order to fulfill Srila Prabhupada's desire to offer a debt-free temple building to the Deities.

RENOVATIONS

Several improvements and renovations were carried out in 2025. These included the installation of a new cupboard in the seminar room, the introduction of a new cash register system in the temple shop, new curtain rails for the altar, and new bunk beds in the ladies' ashram.



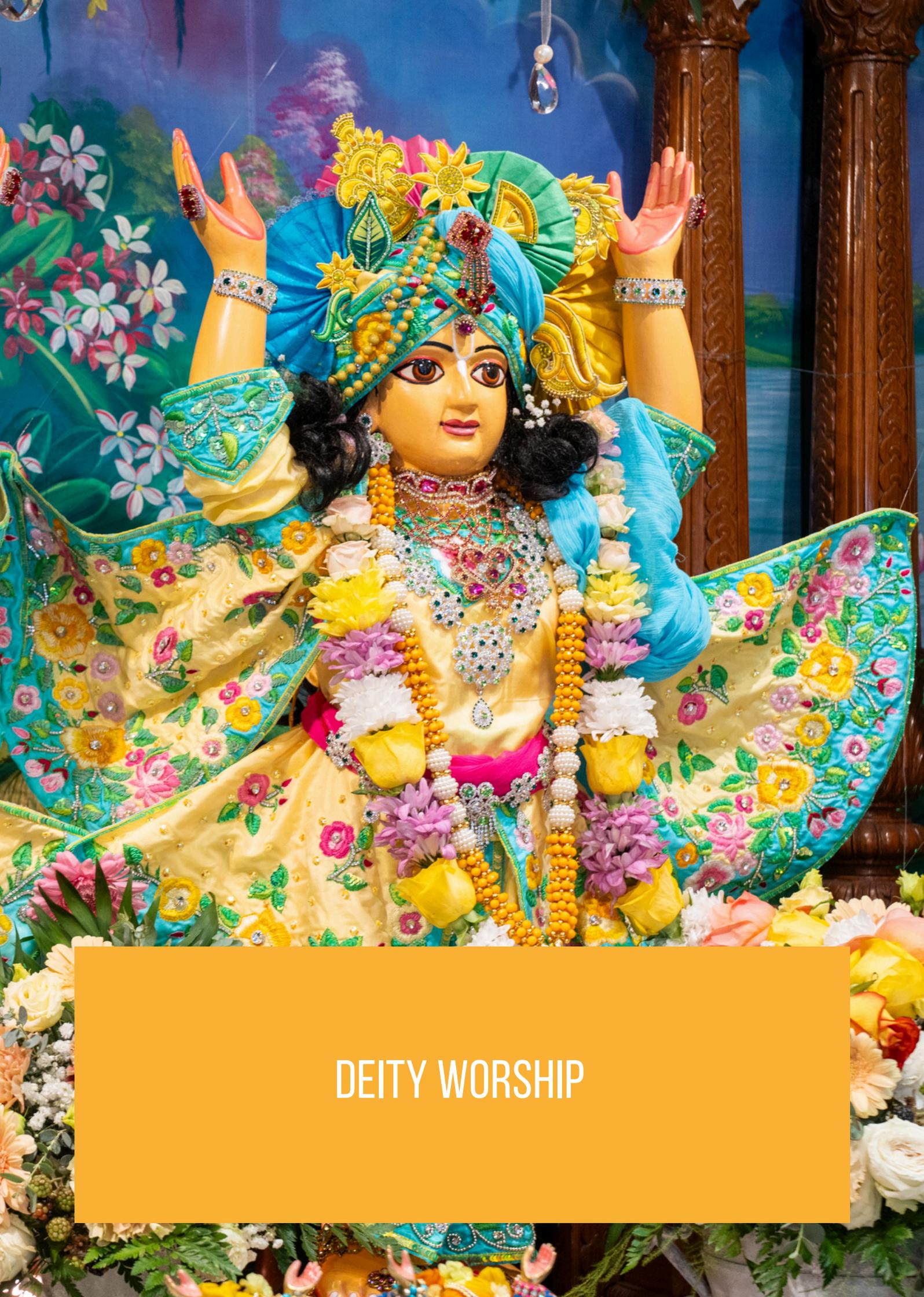
new cupboard in seminar room and



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So, this temple, our Deity worship, arcana, it gives chance to the people to take part in serving Krishna. Just like this child is dancing. It is taken into account of his devotional service; it is not in vain. Anyone who comes here, who hears, who rings some bells, or dance, or offer obeisances, or...

A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada



DEITY WORSHIP

DEITY WORSHIP

DEITY BROCHURE

At the end of the year, the brochure "Jahrzehnte der Hingabe" was published in honor of two significant jubilees: the 50th anniversary of the installation of Sri Sri Gaura Nitai and the 40th anniversary of the installation of Sri Sri Jagannath, Baladeva, and Subhadra Devi. In moving contributions, devotees who have witnessed various milestones in the history of the Deities share their memories and experiences.

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GRIHASTA INVOLVEMENT

The system of fixed service assignments for cooks and pujaris continues to prove very successful. By now, over 75% of the sevas are carried out by grihasthas who commit themselves regularly - usually weekly - to one or more services. Our heartfelt thanks go to all these devotees who serve so lovingly and conscientiously.

DEITY BROCHURE

Our goal for the coming years is to stabilize even more sevas and to build a reliable backup system so that unexpected absences can be better covered. In this way, we ensure that the standard of worship for Sri Sri Gaura Nitai and Sri Sri Jagannath, Baladeva, and Subhadra Devi is maintained.

DEITY BROCHURE

Thanks to a generous donation, all cups and shoes of the Deities could be newly gilded. The old curtain rail of the altar was also replaced, and both the temple hall and the altar ceiling were freshly painted, creating a bright and pure atmosphere.

DEITY BROCHURE

There were several changes in the Deity Worship Board over the course of the year. Bira Krishna Dasa stepped down from the board in May 2025. We thank him for his dedication, steadiness, and tireless service for the well-being of the Deities and the devotees. He continues to be responsible for the training of pujaris.

We also thank Vrindavan Candra Dasa, who for many years devotedly ensured the smooth running of the kitchen. He has handed over his duties as head cook to Gauranga Dasa, who has been part of the Deity Worship Board since May 2025. We also thank Vallabha Sena Dasa, who dedicated himself wholeheartedly to pujari seva and supported the board for several months.

Since September 2025, Sacisuta Dasi has been representing the Deity Worship Department on the KGS Board.

Current members of the Deity Worship Board:

Devasri Radhika Devi Dasi, Gauranga Dasa, Sacisuta Dasi, Sri Caitanya Deva Dasa



Description



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Everyone has dormant love for Krishna, and by culture and education that has to be awakened. That is the purpose of this Krishna consciousness movement.

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 4.29.50, Purport



EDUCATION

COLLEGE OF VEDIC STUDIES

This year marked a significant milestone for the Zürich College of Vedic Studies. Alongside maintaining our full suite of Foundational Courses, Discover, Gita Life, and Bhakti Life, we successfully launched our new Sacred Tree Sanga programs.

SACRED TREE SANGA

The Sacred Tree Sanga programs consist of weekly online gatherings, complemented by occasional in-person meetings for congregational service and interactive events. Structured as long-term commitments lasting 6–9 months, these sangas follow the principles of the Bhakti Vriksha system introduced by Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakur.

The curriculum explores various dimensions of Krishna Consciousness and is both interactive and progressive in nature.

Following the success of our pilot program launched in June, we expanded the initiative to two additional groups running in parallel. These were facilitated and supported by multiple dedicated facilitators and core committee members, including Devasri Radhika devi dasi, Bhaktya Labhya das, Govinda das, Narayani dasi, Tulasi Rasa devi dasi, and Damodar Svarup das.



Sacred Tree group's get together with HG Kripamoya das and HG Guru Carana Padma devi dasi

152

PARTICIPANTS

15

EDUCATIONAL
PROGRAMS

ONLINE PROGRAMS

Recognizing that not all participants can attend in person, we continued to emphasize online learning, which remains the majority of our offering. Across all online and in-person programs, we engaged 152 participants in 15 programs, providing a comprehensive spiritual foundation that attracted a broader audience and deepened participants' understanding of the science of Krishna Consciousness.

In addition to our courses, we hosted five Mantra Meditation Music (M3) events, carrying forward the enthusiasm generated in the previous year.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all participants, facilitators, and volunteers whose dedication made these achievements possible. With your continued support, we look forward to an even more impactful and spiritually enriching year ahead.



Nurturing the Inner Garden: Seminar and Workshop

OVERVIEW OF COURSES, EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

COURSES

Total number of courses	15
Total number of registrations	152
Online course	4
In-person course	3
Foundational/Outreach course	Discover, Gita Life, Bhakti Life
Lifestyle course	Nurturing the Inner Garden
Traditional courses	Bhakti Shastri (DE), Glories of Tulasi Devi, Living in Vraja, Breathe-Balance-Bhakti.
Facilitators	Gaurahari das, Vaijayanti devi dasi, Jayananda das, Krishna Premarupa das, Rasasraya Rama das, Devasri Radhika devi dasi, Hari Katha das, Loka Pavani devi dasi, Damodar Svarup das.

SACRED TREE PROGRAMS

Total number of programs	3
Total active participants	24

M3 EVENTS

Total number of events	5
Mantra Meditation Music (M3)	5



Impressions from seminars and workshops from Zürich College of Vedic Studies



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Observe many festivals, that will keep both public and devotees alive. Temple means festivals and festivals means chanting and distribution of prasadam.

Letter to Tamala Krishna, 8 August 1973



EVENTS

REGULAR EVENTS

DAILY WORSHIP

Daily temple worship forms the foundation of life at Krishna Tempel Zürich. Especially the morning program that takes place from 4:30 to 8:30 a.m. and includes Mangala Arati, Kirtan, Nrsimha prayers, Tulasi Arati, Deity greeting, Srila Prabhupada Guru Puja, and a lecture on Srimad Bhagavatam or Caitanya Caritamrita. There is a general trend of fewer devotees residing full-time at ashrams in ISKCON centres in the Western world.

This is also felt in Zurich and has resulted in a smaller number of permanent residents responsible for maintaining the daily worship program. The steady support of dedicated community members and foreign visitors that stay over at the temple ensures that the program remains vibrant and a source of inspiration for many.

In addition to the morning program, a daily evening program is held from 6:30 p.m. onwards, consisting of arati, kirtan, and prasadam. On Sundays, this program is replaced by the regular Sunday congregational program.

THE WEEKLY PROGRAMS

The weekly Sunday Love Feast is a long-standing tradition within the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON). Such congregational gatherings were first established in 1966 in the movement's original temple in New York, inspired by Kirtananandana, one of Srila Prabhupada's earliest disciples. Since then, the Sunday Love Feast has become a defining feature of ISKCON temples worldwide, bringing devotees together for congregational worship of Krishna while also providing an accessible and welcoming introductory event for newcomers.

Krishna Tempel Zurich is unique in that it hosts not one, but three such weekly congregational gatherings. This reflects the cultural and linguistic diversity of Switzerland's devotional community. Although we are all spirit souls, we still have our cultural backgrounds and languages.

To serve the major groups within our congregation, the temple offers two Sunday programs—one in English/German and one in Tamil—as well as a Hindi program on Saturdays. Together, these three weekly programs bring some 200 visitors to the temple every weekend. Each program follows the traditional structure of the Sunday Love Feast, including Kirtan, a philosophical discourse and the sharing of prasadam.

KIDS PROGRAM

The temple continued to offer attractive Kids Programs every Sunday and on major festival days such as Krishna’s Appearance Day, Ratha Yatra and Govardhana Puja.

The program is designed to introduce children to Krishna consciousness and its spiritual culture in an age-appropriate and engaging way. Through a wide range of activities, the children were encouraged to see everything in connection with God and to develop a positive relationship with devotional life.

Topics and activities included Vaishnava etiquette, the significance of festivals, outdoor activities that help develop awareness for nature, adventurous games, stories of saintly people, different forms of devotional service and creative performances such as painting.

At the beginning of the year, devotees and their children were invited to an information evening, during which the vision, plans, and goals of the Kids Program were presented. The event concluded with a shared prasadam and a joyful arati in the temple, during which the children enthusiastically participated by dancing in front of the Deities.



BHAKTI RETREAT

Thanks to the support of many dedicated devotees, around 250 participants and guests were able to gather for the 10th time at the Kientalerhof during the last week of July. Most participants came from across Europe, with an increasing number also arriving from overseas. Nevertheless, this retreat remains a unique opportunity especially for Swiss devotees to cultivate community and deepen their Krishna consciousness.

HH Sacinandana Swami, HH Krishna Kshetra Swami, HH S.B. Keshava Swami, HG Bada Haridasa Prabhu, and HG Kosarupa Mataji once again delivered deeply inspiring lectures, and the prasadam exceeded all expectations. Not least because of the wonderful kirtans, the beautiful community altar, and the professional children's program, the retreat continues to attract more and more visitors from around the world each year. The nearly 30 newly introduced volunteers also proved to be a great success.

NAMA SEVANAM

For almost 13 years, the Nama-sevanam Kirtan Festival has been held on the last Saturday of every month. This year as well, on 10 Saturdays (August had to be cancelled due to a scheduling conflict), up to 50 or 60 devotees gathered for eight hours at the Zurich Temple to serve the Holy Name together. The monthly Nama-sevanam offers a wonderful opportunity to deeply immerse oneself in the congregational chanting of the Holy Name in the association of like-minded devotees.

Special thanks go to Sunitirani Mataji and family, who have been preparing the prasadam for this event for many years. In addition, Wednesdays at the Bhakti Retreat have for some time now been dedicated entirely to kirtan as well—there for 10 or 11 hours, with international kirtan leaders and a much larger number of participants.



ANNUAL FESTIVALS

Vaishnava culture is marked by a full calendar of festivals throughout the year. At Krishna Tempel Zürich, special functions are held for fifteen major celebrations, including the appearance days of Krishna and His avatars, the appearance and disappearance days of Srila Prabhupada, Snana Yatra, Ratha Yatra, and Govardhana Puja.

In 2025, all festivals were held as usual, with the exception of Ratha Yatra, which concluded at Rathausbrücke instead of Bürkliplatz due to construction work in the area. Attendance remained strong throughout the year, with an average of around 250 participants at regular festivals, approximately 500 visitors at Ratha Yatra, and about 1,000 guests attending Janmastami, the largest annual celebration of the temple.





RAMAYANA DRAMA

Among the highlights of the year was a one-hour Ramayana drama performed by 20 actors, glorifying the epic story of Lord Rama. The play portrayed Lord Rama as the ideal in every aspect of life - in his character, in his loving dealings with his devotees, in his victory over the demon Ravana, and in his exemplary rule as king. The performance attracted an audience of around 300 visitors.

NARASIMHA SHADOW-PLAY

Another moving highlight was a shadow-play about Lord Narasimha, performed by children using hand-cut shadow figures. The presentation glorified Lord Narasimha and his devotee Prahlada, illustrating how the Lord always protects His devotees and how Prahlada, never fearful, remains fully trusting in the shelter of the Lord.

OTHER FESTIVALS

In addition to these festivals, the installation anniversaries of the Deities are observed each year. In 2025, the temple celebrated the 41st and 51st anniversaries of Sri Sri Jagannath, Baladeva and Subhadra, and Sri Sri Gaura Nitai respectively. Furthermore, the New Year's Celebration has become a much-anticipated event for many devotees seeking a devotional start to the year. This year, around 100 guests welcomed the arrival of 2026 in front of the Deities.

SPECIAL EVENTS

TEMPLE OF VEDIC PLANETARIUM FUNDRAISING

In May, the TOVP Fundraising Team visited the Krishna Tempel Zürich as part of their European tour to support the construction of the Temple of Vedic Planetarium in Sridham Mayapur. Led by Jananivas Prabhu, a direct disciple of Srila Prabhupada who dedicated his life to the service of Sridham Mayapur, the team inspired devotees through kirtans and special programs to take part in fulfilling Srila Prabhupada's vision of Mayapur as the spiritual capital of the world.

20TH INSTALLATION DAY OF SUDARSHAN CHAKRA

For the first time, a special festival dedicated to the installation of the Sudarshan Chakra was celebrated on 18 May, which marked the 20th anniversary. The festival was integrated into the Sunday program and included a session of shared memories by special guests who had been present at the installation 20 years earlier.



MEETING WITH SRI CHINNA JEEYAR SWAMI OF SRI SAMPRADAYA

Sri Chinna Jeeyar Swami, a renowned spiritual teacher in the line of Ramanujacharya, visited Switzerland this summer.

We had the honor of hosting him and his followers for a special event titled “The G-Triad – GOD | GITA | GOAL” mid of July. During the program, the Swami shared his wisdom on the Bhagavad Gita, preceded by an introduction by Krishna Premarupa Prabhu on the historical and philosophical connection between Gaudiya Vaishnavism and Sri Vaishnavism. The event was warmly appreciated for helping to build a bridge between our Gaudiya tradition and the Sri Sampradaya, one of the four authorized Vaishnava traditions.



SRILA PRABHUPADA MEMORIAL

On the weekend of 20–21 September, a Srila Prabhupada Memorial Festival was held to commemorate Srila Prabhupada’s historic arrival in the United States on 17 September 1965, allowing devotees to honor his selfless service and pioneering spirit. The festival began on Saturday with the bhajan Markine Bhagavata-Dharma, followed by a lecture by HG Akhandadhi Prabhu, Srila Prabhupada Guru-puja, Gaura-arati and prasadam.

On Sunday, the program was integrated into the regular Sunday feast and opened with the bhajan Jadi Prabhupada Na Hoito, followed by a lecture by HG Radhe Shyam Prabhu and the official relaunch of the Krishna Freundeskreis. After prasadam and Gaura-arati, the event concluded with a heartfelt Guru-puja for Srila Prabhupada.

WDR: THE GURU – PERSONALITY CULT OR NECESSITY?

As part of the Swiss-wide Week of Religions 2025, the Krishna Tempel Zürich, in cooperation with the Swiss Hindu Federation (SDH), hosted a public evening titled “The Guru – Personality Cult or Spiritual Necessity?” in November. The program was led by Krishna Premarupa Prabhu, who presented the guru principle in Hinduism, explained the characteristics of authentic spiritual teachers, and invited participants to engage in open and thoughtful reflection. The evening also included a traditional Guru-puja and a Vedic apero, supporting interreligious dialogue and mutual understanding.

GITA MAHOTSAVA

In November, Krishna Tempel Zürich hosted a special Gita Mahotsava in cooperation with the Embassy of India in Bern to celebrate the appearance day of the Srimad Bhagavad Gita. The event was honored by the presence of His Excellency Mr. Kumar, Ambassador of India to Switzerland. The program included devotional dance and drama, arati, recitation of the Bhagavad Gita, and a fire ceremony in honor of the sacred text.

Ambassador Kumar addressed the audience on the message of the 18th chapter of the Bhagavad Gita, and a talk on the relevance of the Gita in the modern world was also presented. The event concluded with a festive prasadam meal and provided a meaningful opportunity to celebrate the Bhagavad Gita as a central spiritual and cultural heritage.



PIONEERING SPIRIT: MEMORIES OF DEVOTEES THAT SHAPED ISKCON SWITZERLAND

In December, a special program was held to honor two of Srila Prabhupada's direct disciples in Switzerland, Rohini Suta Prabhu and Chitrakara Prabhu, in recognition of their contributions to the early establishment of ISKCON. Both devotees were presented with a Srila Prabhupada murti that had been created exclusively for Srila Prabhupada's direct disciples by devotees from ISKCON Russia.

Rohini Suta Prabhu shared his personal recollections of Srila Prabhupada's gratitude for his efforts in book distribution, offering participants a rare glimpse into an important chapter of ISKCON history.

Akhandadhi Prabhu and Akhila Prabhu, another two direct disciples of Srila Prabhupada, from the United Kingdom and Germany respectively, enriched this event unexpectedly.







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Letter to Tamala Krishna, 8 August 1973



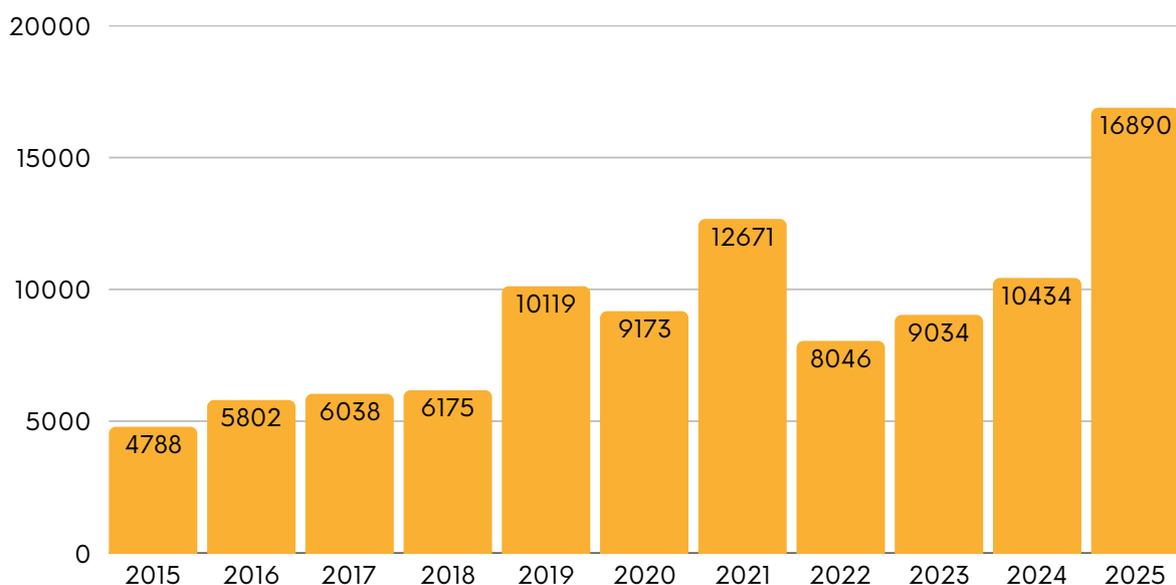
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BOOK DISTRIBUTION

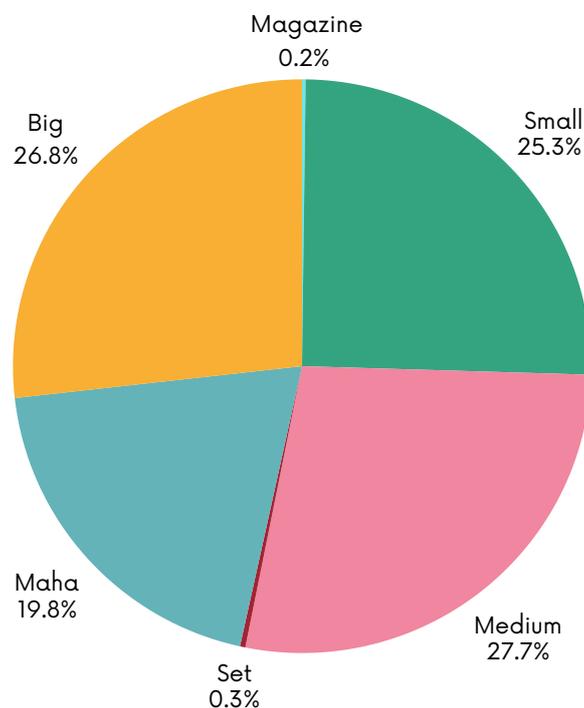
With a total of 15,880 books (16,890 book points) distributed, the members of Krishna-Gemeinschaft Schweiz can look back on their strongest year since 2003 in terms of numbers. Most of the distribution was done by Siksastakam, Manu, Uttama-śloka, and Nitya-seva, while another eleven devotees contributed to the overall result, making it a true team effort.

This represents an impressive 53% increase compared to the previous year in the number of books distributed. This result places Krishna Temple Zurich firmly in third place among 21 temples and centers in the German-speaking region (Switzerland, Germany, and Austria). Even in the wider European rankings, many devotees have noted the return of our temple to a prominent position among the leading centers.

10-YEAR COMPARISON IN BOOK POINTS



TYPE OF BOOKS DISTRIBUTED



ANNUAL RANKING GERMAN-SPEAKING ISKCON CENTRES

Centre	Country	Points	Books
1. Simhachalam Jandelsbrunn	Germany	20625.85	18483
2. Harinam Sankirtan Mandir München	Germany	17060.7	9211
3. Krishna-Gemeinschaft Schweiz	Switzerland	16889.95	15880
4. Gauradesh Cologne	Germany	10967.05	8785
5. Goloka Dhama Abentheuer	Germany	7030.85	6296
6. Nava Navadvipa Heidelberg	Germany	5827.85	5439
7. Verein für vedische Kultur Munich	Germany	3026.75	1425
8. Nurnberg	Germany	1961	2017
9. Bhakti-Yoga-Zentrum Hamburg	Germany	1857	808
10. Offenbach Frankfurt am Main	Germany	1544.5	1854

We were at the train station in Zug, and the day was coming to an end. I still needed three more books to reach my goal for the day. I approached a man and thought, he's the one. He was very open, and a fascinating discussion about the meaning of life developed.

"You know," he said, "we never really learn who we truly are." - exactly my thoughts. Then his friend arrived - clearly in a hurry - and quite brusquely pulled him away. As they left, the man muttered, "Sorry, next time I'll definitely take your books!" And they were gone. Of course, I thought, another one of those. Slightly discouraged, I wondered what Kṛṣṇa might still have in store. Well... just keep going.

I then approached a young woman, whom I guessed to be around thirty. She was elegantly dressed; later I learned she worked in finance. I spoke to her and offered her the books. She looked at me with wide eyes and listened for a moment and then, within just a few seconds, she completely broke down. She began to cry. I had rarely seen someone cry like that; she simply couldn't stop. I didn't know what to do.

I tried to comfort her. She kept apologizing, and I told her, "Hey, it's okay. Don't be ashamed."

Then she said, "You know, I think I'm in burnout. I'm realizing it right now. I feel so empty and exhausted, and I work far too much. And meditation - that's exactly what I need right now."

I agreed and continued to reassure her as the tears kept coming. I explained that ultimately we are not this body but the spiritual soul, and that encounters like this one are meant to remind us of that truth. Then I told her about Krishna.

"Krishna?" she said. "Were you the ones walking along Lake Zurich in the summer with that parade with the music and the big chariots?"

"Yes," I replied, "that was the Ratha Yatra festival!"

She said it had been such a special experience — they had received fruit, everything was joyful, everyone was happy, she had never seen anything like it before.

"See," I said, "today Krishna is reconnecting you with that atmosphere of happiness again."

We spoke a little longer, and she gradually stopped sobbing. When I handed her our temple flyer, she suddenly exclaimed joyfully, "Yes, exactly! I already got this back then. This really is a sign from Krishna!"

So I gave her the books and invited her to visit the temple again. She thanked me, wiped away her tears, and said:

"We'll see each other at the temple."



Some Distributors and Recipients of Srila Prabhupada's Books



HARINAM SANKIRTAN

HEADER ??????

A total of 79 public Harinam events were organized in 2025, with its best month in April with 16 Harinams. In average there was a Harinam taking place every fifth day, primarily in Zurich itself.

During the summer months the Harināmas are often held sitting by the lake, while in winter they usually take place as walking processions through the city centers. Several special guests joined throughout the year, enlivening the devotees and the public by their presence.

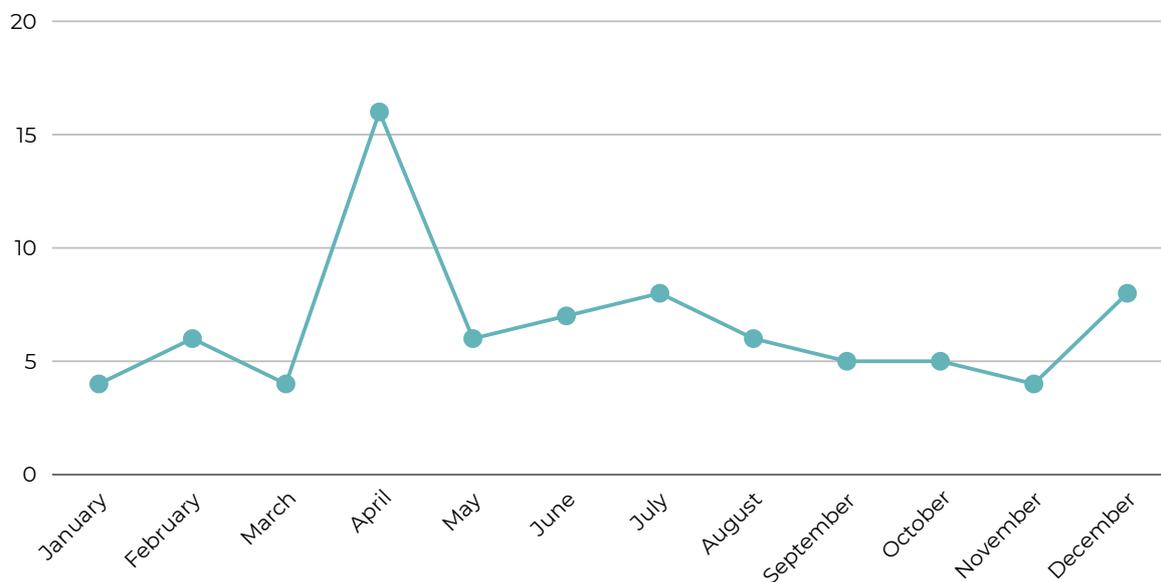
The regular public chanting of the holy name over recent years is bearing fruit. Many people now recognize the devotees, sing along, clap, and even dance with the chanting. On particularly good days, as the procession moves through shopping areas, enthusiastic shopkeepers sometimes invite the devotees to take the procession through their stores to bless customers and staff with kīrtana.

The organization of Harinam has become a true team effort.

Deena Dayal, Sundar Jagannath, Ekachakra, Siksastakam, Devasri Radhika, Bhakta Makar, and Damodar Prasad take turns facilitating the public programs. Alongside the chanting, books and prasadam are distributed to interested and curious passers-by.



NUMBER OF HARINAMS PER MONTH



FACTS & FIGURES

Total public Harinams	79
In Zurich	69
In other cities (Bern, Basel, Winterthur, Luzern)	10
Total walking Harinams	40
Total sitting Harinams	39
Special Guests	Prahladananda Swami, Bhakti Vighna Vinasa Narasimha Swami, Krishna Caitanya Swami, Bhakti Sarvajna Gauranga Swami, Akincana Krishna Prabhu, Devadharm Prabhu, Harinam Ruci Group, Gauranga Kripa Group

VEDA FORUM

SUBTITLE

In 2025, the Veda Forum Student Association celebrated its third anniversary at the University of Zurich. Since its founding in 2022, the initiative has developed into a well-established university association with a ten-member board and an active circle of around 160 interested students.

In addition to the weekly meetings, consisting of a philosophical lecture, open discussion and a shared prasadam lunch, several special events were organized throughout the year. From May onward, three Indian cooking workshops were held at the Mohini Restaurant on Weinbergstrasse, where students learned to prepare multi-course menus and experienced Vaishnava culture in a practical and engaging way.





SUBTITLE

In October, an outdoor “hike and dine” event took place in the gorges of Zurich’s primeval forest, combining nature, community, grilled prasadam and an evening kirtan around the campfire.

In autumn, the Veda Forum was also launched at ETH Zurich. The focus there is on workshops that present the practical application of spiritual life. Two mantra-meditation events were held at Mohini, including a well-received contemplative Christmas program.

SUBTITLE

Many students were inspired through the Veda Forum to visit the Krishna Tempel Zürich and participate in devotional service. The newly relaunched Krishnas Freundeskreis magazine, which was distributed among interested students, also contributed to this growing connection.

We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of our guest speakers and the Veda Forum organization and logistics team: Yamuna, Sarangan, Nicosia, Silas, Sara, Andi, Syamasundari, Ajit Krsna and Rasasraya Rama. Special thanks go to Visnuyajna Prabhu for providing the Mohini facilities, and to the dedicated cooking teams who prepared the prasadam for these events.



“

Observe many festival, that will keep both public and devotees alive. Temple means festivals and festivals means chanting and distribution of prasadam.

Letter to Tamala Krishna, 8 August 1973



FINANCES

FINANCES

GBC HANDOVER

In 2025, an important change took place in the leadership of the German-speaking ISKCON Zone. After more than 20 years of dedicated service, Dina Sharana Devi Dasi stepped down from her role as GBC Zonal Secretary and was honored with the title of GBC Emerita for her many years of devotion and care for the Yatra.

We are happy that Krishna Premarupa Prabhu was confirmed as her successor and has taken on the responsibility for ISKCON in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and Liechtenstein. Many in our community know him well, and after years of service and preparation, he is now continuing this work as Area GBC.

This thoughtful handover brings both continuity and fresh energy, and we are grateful to both Dina Sharana Devi Dasi and Krishna Premarupa Prabhu for their service to Srila Prabhupada's mission.

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BOARD & TEMPLE ADMINISTRATION

After many years of dedicated service on the Krishna-Gemeinschaft Schweiz association board, Krishna Premarupa and Bharati stepped down from their positions at the annual assembly in February. Bhaktya Labhya, Damodar Svarup, Sri Gour Rupa, and Rasashraya Rama were voted into the board by the members of the assembly. Damodar Prasad took over from Krishna Premarupa as head of the board. With these changes, the composition of the board now corresponds to the organizational chart with its department heads, helping to strengthen clarity and efficiency in the temple's leadership structure.

As of 1 September 2025, several changes took place in the temple leadership. Siksastakam assumed the role of Vice-President on an interim basis, succeeding Vrindavan Candra Prabhu, who stepped down from the Association Board. Sachisuta, head of the Deity Worship Department, joined the Board, representing this key area of the temple. Adikeshava joined the management team as Assistant to the Temple Leadership, supporting the President and Board in daily operations. At the end of November, Siksastakam concluded his service as Vice-President on an interim basis, following his decision to relocate abroad.