

# The Light of Vedanta

The monthly newsletter of the Vedanta Society of Western Washington (established 1938).

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Founder: The late Swami Vividishananda

President: Swami Bhaskarananda

VOL. XLII, NO. X

"As many Faiths...so many Paths." – Sri Ramakrishna

OCTOBER 2017

## ABOUT VEDANTA

Vedanta, or the Perennial Religion, popularly called Hinduism, is perhaps the most ancient religion in the world. It believes in one God who has both "personal" and "impersonal" aspects. God-vision can be obtained through various paths called "Yogas." It believes in reincarnation, the law of cause and effect and the divinity of all souls. This religion is distinguished in not having any founder. Its holy scripture, the Vedas, consists of divine truths that were revealed to ancient saints of India who preferred to remain anonymous. The idea of harmony of all faiths is inherent in the teachings of Vedanta. The Vedas teach: "God is One, different sages call the same God by different names."

## LECTURES AND CLASSES

Every Sunday morning at 11:00 AM, a lecture is given by a swami at the Society's chapel on different aspects of the Vedanta philosophy and religion and related subjects. In addition to the Sunday lecture, a study class is conducted by Swami Bhaskarananda on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 PM. The subjects currently studied, on alternate Tuesdays, are *The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna* and *The Bhagavad Gita*.

## CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

Mother's Children is a program for our members' children of ages 3 to 16. It is held every Sunday morning at 11:00 AM. Its aim is to inspire the children through play and moral education to become good and noble individuals while also giving parents the opportunity to attend the lecture.

## DEVOTIONAL SINGING

Every Sunday evening at 7:00 PM, we have singing of "Ram-Nam" in Sanskrit and other devotional songs in English, Hindi, and Bengali.

## LIBRARY

The Society has a lending library for members. It contains books on Vedanta, religion, philosophy, mysticism, biographies, culture and more.

## RETREAT

The Society owns a beautiful 21-acre property called the Tapovan in Snohomish County, 45 miles from Seattle. Every month a day long retreat program consisting of holy readings, devotional songs, and a potluck luncheon is held at the Tapovan. (This program is for members only, please.)

## BOOKSHOP

The Society's bookshop has a fine selection of books covering all aspects of Hinduism and Vedanta. There are books on other religious traditions as well. Many religiously oriented gifts and items are also available. The bookshop is open before and after lectures; for other times please call.

## GLOBAL VEDANTA

The Society has been publishing the quarterly journal *Global Vedanta* since 1996. The journal aims to present Vedanta in a lively and thought-provoking way, with engaging articles, humorous pieces, Vedanta news from around the world, poems, cartoons and more. Subscription rates are \$12/year in the USA; \$14 US/year in Canada and Mexico, and \$18 US/year in all other countries. Please visit our website or call our offices to subscribe or learn more.

## MEMBERSHIP

Anyone wishing to express their appreciation and sustained support for the Vedantic ideals may become a member of the Society, subject to the approval of Swami Bhaskarananda. Annual dues are \$60 and life membership is \$1000. For further information, please inquire of Swami Bhaskarananda or the Secretary.

## SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

Swami Bhaskarananda is glad to help sincere spiritual seekers with practical instructions in regard to personal prayer and meditation, etc. However, those who receive spiritual instruction from the Swami are expected to be members. Appointments may be made after lectures and classes or by calling the Society.

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# OCTOBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Lessons I Learned in Monastic Life—Part II</i> Swami Bhaskarananda 11:00 AM <i>Children's Program</i> 11 AM <i>Ram Nam</i> 7 PM 1	2	Class at 7:30 PM on <i>The Bhagavad Gita</i> given by Swami Bhaskarananda 3	4	5	6	7
<i>Mind—The Great Mystery</i> Swami Bhaskarananda 11:00 AM <i>Children's Program</i> 11 AM <i>Ram Nam</i> 7 PM 8	9	Class at 7:30 PM on <i>The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna</i> given by Swami Bhaskarananda 10	11	12	13	Monthly Retreat at the Tapovan 11:00 AM (members only) 14
<i>Mind &amp; Its Control</i> Swami Bhaskarananda 11:00 AM <i>Children's Program</i> 11 AM <i>Ram Nam</i> 7 PM 15	16	Class at 7:30 PM on <i>The Bhagavad Gita</i> given by Swami Bhaskarananda 17	18	Kali Puja 7:00 PM  19	20	21
<i>Removing Our Masks</i> Swami Manishananda 11:00 AM <i>Children's Program</i> 11 AM <i>Ram Nam</i> 7 PM 22	23	Class at 7:30 PM on <i>The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna</i> given by Swami Bhaskarananda 24	25	26	27	28
<i>Harmony of Religions</i> Swami Avikarananda 11:00 AM <i>Children's Program</i> 11 AM <i>Ram Nam</i> 7 PM 29	30	Class at 7:30 PM on <i>The Bhagavad Gita</i> given by Swami Bhaskarananda 31				

## SWAMI BRAHMATMANANDA VISITS VANCOUVER, BC

At the invitation of the Vivekananda Vedanta Society of British Columbia, Swami Brahmamananda will go to Vancouver, BC, Canada to give a talk on Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>.

## MONTHLY RETREAT

Our monthly retreat program at the Tapovan will be held on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM. Swami Bhaskarananda will conduct the retreat.

(Members only, please.)

## SWAMI ATMAJAYANANDA VISITS VANCOUVER, BC

At the invitation of the Vivekananda Vedanta Society of British Columbia, Swami Atmajayananda will go to Vancouver, BC, Canada on Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. He will give a talk there and return on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>.

## KALI PUJA

On Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM, we shall worship God as the Divine Mother Kali in our Society's chapel. All are most cordially invited to attend. After the worship, flower offerings, and devotional singing, Prasad (a vegetarian potluck meal) will be served to all.

## GO PAPERLESS!

You can now receive our monthly newsletter electronically by subscribing at the bottom of the home page on our website: [www.vedanta-seattle.org](http://www.vedanta-seattle.org)

If you no longer wish to receive the paper newsletter via standard mail please inform us either by phone: 206.323.1228, or by e-mail: [society@vedanta-seattle.org](mailto:society@vedanta-seattle.org)

## Words of Wisdom

*One suffers as a result of one's own actions. So, instead of blaming others for such sufferings, one should pray to the Lord and depending entirely on His grace, try to bear them patiently and with forbearance under all circumstances.*

*You see, my son, it is not a fact that you will never face dangers. Difficulties always come, but they do not last forever. You will see that they pass away like water under a bridge.*

*There is no treasure equal to contentment and no virtue equal to fortitude.*

~Sri Sarada Devi