

# 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

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

**DECEMBER 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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# DECEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<i>Sarada Devi— The Universal Mother</i> Swami Bhaskarananda 11:00 AM  <i>Children's Program 11 AM</i> <i>Ram Nam 7 PM</i> 3	4	Class at 7:30 PM on <i>The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna</i> given by Swami Bhaskarananda 5	6	7	8	<i>Worship of the Holy Mother, Sri Sarada Devi</i> 11:00 AM  9
<i>Jesus— A Divine Outlaw</i> Swami Manishananda 11:00 AM  <i>Children's Program 11 AM</i> <i>Ram Nam 7 PM</i> 10	11	Class at 7:30 PM on <i>The Bhagavad Gita</i> given by Swami Bhaskarananda 12	13	Swami Manishananda visits Vancouver, BC  14	15	Swami Manishananda returns from Vancouver, BC  16
<i>Spiritual Initiation and Its Utility</i> Swami Bhaskarananda 11:00 AM  <i>Children's Program 11 AM</i> <i>Ram Nam 7 PM</i> 17	18	Class at 7:30 PM on <i>The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna</i> given by Swami Bhaskarananda 19	20	21	22	23
 6:30 PM <i>Worship of Jesus Christ</i> <i>The Sunday morning talk, Ram Nam and the children's program are cancelled</i> 24	25	Class at 7:30 PM  26	27	28	29	30
<i>The Sunday morning talk, Ram Nam and the children's program are cancelled</i> 31						

## SWAMI ATMAJAYANANDA VISITS VANCOUVER, BC

At the invitation of the Vivekananda Vedanta Society of British Columbia, Swami Atmajayananda will go to Vancouver, BC on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> to give a talk and will return the same day.

## THE WORSHIP OF THE HOLY MOTHER, SRI SARADA DEVI

The worship of the Holy Mother, Sri Sarada Devi, will be held on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM. Following the worship, there will be pushpanjali, devotional singing and prasad. All are invited to attend.

## SWAMI MANISHANANDA VISITS VANCOUVER, BC

At the invitation of the Vivekananda Vedanta Society of British Columbia, Swami Manishananda

will to Vancouver, BC on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. While there he will conduct their annual Christmas Service, and will return on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.

## ADORATION OF JESUS CHRIST

The adoration of Christ will take place on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the Society's chapel. Following the brief worship, there will be the singing of Christmas carols and sharing of Prasad. All are invited to attend.

## CHANGES TO THE REGULAR SCHEDULE

The following regularly scheduled events are cancelled this month:

- ✦ The Sunday morning talk, Ram Nam and the Children's Program on December 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.
- ✦ The Tuesday evening class on December 26<sup>th</sup>.
- ✦ The monthly retreat program at the Tapovan.

## A HOLIDAY AND NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE TO ALL OUR FRIENDS AND MEMBERS

On behalf of the Vedanta Society, I wish our members and friends a very happy and spiritually beneficial New Year.

Swami Bhaskarananda, President