

# 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 2018**

## 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 on *The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna* is conducted by Swami Bhaskarananda on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 PM.

## 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 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday				
						1				
<i>Sri Sarada Devi The Mother Divine</i> Swami Bhaskarananda 11:00 AM <i>Children's Program</i> 11 AM <i>Ram Nam</i> 7 PM	3	Class at 7:30 PM on <i>The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna</i> given by Swami Bhaskarananda	4	5	6	7	Karma Yoga Day at Tapovan 9AM-5PM	8		
<i>Spiritual Life – Its Practice &amp; Goal</i> Swami Manishananda 11:00 AM <i>Children's Program</i> 11 AM <i>Ram Nam</i> 7 PM	9	Class at 7:30 PM on <i>The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna</i> given by Swami Bhaskarananda	10	11	12	13	Swami Manishananda goes to Vancouver, BC 	14	Swami Manishananda returns from Vancouver, BC 	15
<i>The Bhagavad Gita Part 2</i> Swami Brahmattmananda 11:00 AM <i>Children's Program</i> 11 AM <i>Ram Nam</i> 7 PM	16	Class at 7:30 PM on <i>The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna</i> given by Swami Bhaskarananda	17	18	19	20	21	22		
<i>The Sunday morning talk, Ram Nam and the children's program are cancelled</i>	23	Class at 7:30 PM on <i>The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna</i> given by Swami Bhaskarananda <b>CANCELLED</b>	24	25	26	27	<b>Worship of the Holy Mother Sri Sarada Devi</b> <i>in the Society's Chapel</i>  7 PM	28	29	
<i>The Sunday morning talk, Ram Nam and the children's program are cancelled</i>	30		31							

## SWAMI BRAHMATMANANDA GOES TO VANCOUVER, B.C.

At the invitation of the Vivekananda Vedanta Society of British Columbia, Swami Brahmattmananda will go to Vancouver, B.C, to give a talk on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. He will return the same day.

## KARMA YOGA AT TAPOVAN

Karma Yoga Day at Tapovan will be held on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, from 9AM TO 5PM. There will be a potluck lunch. Please rsvp Swami Brahmattmananda at 360-435-6373.

## SWAMI MANISHANANDA GOES TO VANCOUVER, B.C.

At the invitation of the Vivekananda Vedanta Society of British Columbia, Swami Manishananda will go to Vancouver, B.C, to conduct

their Christmas Service on Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. He will return the next day.

## ADORATION OF JESUS CHRIST

You are cordially invited to attend the adoration of Jesus Christ at 6:30PM on Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. Following the brief worship there will be a reading from the bible and the singing of Christmas carols. The event will end with a vegetarian potluck supper (Prasad). All are invited to attend.

## WORSHIP OF THE HOLY MOTHER SRI SARADA DEVI

The worship of Sri Sarada Devi will take place in the Society's chapel on Friday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00PM. Following the worship there will be Pushpanjali, devotional singing and the eating of vegetarian potluck Prasad. All are invited to attend.

## CHANGES TO THE REGULAR SCHEDULE

The following regularly scheduled events are cancelled this month:

- The Sunday morning talk, Children's Program and Ram Nam on Dec, 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- The Tuesday night class on Dec, 25<sup>th</sup>.
- The Sunday morning talk, Children's Program and Ram Nam on Dec, 30<sup>th</sup>.
- The monthly Retreat Program

## A HOLIDAY AND NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

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

Swami Bhaskarananda, President