

## 2017 Annual Report

### *Sri Sarada Mahila Samiti of Northern California*

P.O. Box 60541 Sacramento, CA 95860-0541 Website: [www.maasamiti.org](http://www.maasamiti.org)

### Memorable Events and Contributions: January 1st through December 31st, 2017

**“If you want to find peace, my daughters, do not find fault with anyone.” The Holy Mother**

**20th Anniversary Souvenir:** As 2017 marked both the **twentieth anniversary of the Sri Sarada Mahila Samiti of Northern California and the 150th birth anniversary of Sister Nivedita**, a special Souvenir was created by Ranu Pandey, Mahamaya Schweizer, Susan Harrell, Anna Hourihan, Bidya Pradhan, and Mary Archana Tamraz in consultation with Pravrajika Virajaprana and Swami Asutoshananda of the Vedanta Society of Northern California. This Souvenir is being distributed to our members and well wishers around the world. (*Printing: \$671.*)

**Samiti Satsangs:** Our *twenty-eight Samiti members* studied the universal teachings of the Holy Mother, Sri Ramakrishna, and Swami Vivekananda, and appreciated the biannual journal of Sri Sarada Math, *Samvit: Knowledge that Leads to Enlightenment*. Vidya Pradhan performed *daily worship in the Samiti shrine* throughout the year except when out of town. Three *Samiti Satsang* gatherings were held with an average attendance of thirteen women. Three meetings of the Samiti Board of Directors were held.

**Financial Support Towards Girl's Education, Publications, Plus:** Our Samiti offered funds towards the Ramakrishna Sarada Mission, Pangot girls' education (*\$1,200.*) as well as funds for Sri Sarada Math publications (*\$492.*) including *Samvit: Knowledge that Leads to Enlightenment* and newly published books on Sister Nivedita. We collaborated with the Sri Sarada Society to assist in bringing Pravrajika Satchitprana Mataji of Sri Sarada Math, Dakshineswar Kolkata, India (*\$500.towards travel expenses*). Mary Archana Tamraz participated along with others in the silent women's retreat on the “Ashtaavakra Samhitaa” at Ridgely Manor.

**Sister Nivedita Study Circle:** Nine gatherings of the *Sister Nivedita Study Circle* were held with an average attendance of ten participants. Swami Ishadhyanananda of the Vedanta Society of Sacramento participated and Pravrajika Vivekaprana of the Ramakrishna Sarada Mission Pangot graciously responded by email to questions raised during our study circles. Also, Mary Archana Tamraz traveled to India to celebrate the opening of Sister Nivedita's restored home in Baghbazar and to engage in spiritual studies in

Pangot. Vidya Pradhan's article "The Play of Shiva and Shakti" was published in *The Divine Legacy: Sister Nivedita's 150th Birth Anniversary Publication* of Sri Sarada Math.

**Daylong Retreat by Pravrajika Virajaprana:** On Saturday, July 22, 2017, Pravrajika Virajaprana of the Vedanta Society of Northern California, guided a retreat on *Practical Vedanta* in the home of Usha and Subbanna Chenna with 24 participants.

**Annual Summer Retreat at Olema:** We held our *annual summer retreat at Olema* from August 2nd to 6th with fourteen participants. A day long retreat on *Sister Nivedita, the Mystic and the Saint* was given by Swami Asutoshananda Maharaj of the Vedanta Society of Northern California. It was based in part on his comprehensive book in Tamil published this year, as well as the chanting of the 108 names of Sri Sarada Devi, the Holy Mother. Pravrajika Vedaprana of the Vedanta Society Convent facilitated a daylong retreat on *Sister Nivedita: Her Life with Swami Vivekananda and the Holy Mother*. (*Samiti Retreats: \$ 411.*)

**Samiti Website:** Jeff Wilson *maintains our Samiti website at:* [www.maasamiti.org](http://www.maasamiti.org) A vimeo of Pravrajika Divyanandapranaji's talk on "Sister Nivedita" as well as Pravrajika Vivekapranaji's talk on the "Guru Disciple Relationship" are posted on the Home Page. Terrance Hohner is contributing to an interactive segment on places in America with which Swami Vivekananda was associated; and Maria Reyes continues to research the holy places associated with the Holy Mother, the Master, and Swami Vivekananda in India. Both interactive segments are a work in progress as a part of the *Samiti website on Pilgrimage*.

**Volunteering at the Vedanta Society and the Olema Women's Retreat House:** Our members actively *volunteered at the Vedanta Society* of Sacramento through the daily worship, food preparation, offerings at special events, and participation in the choir. Two members served on the Vedanta Society Board. Two of our members, Mary Archana Tamraz and Maria Reyes offered about thirty days service to the Vedanta Society of Northern California as *Caretakers at the Olema Women's Retreat House*.

#### **Financial Overview for 2017:**

<b>Samiti Opening Balance, January 1, 2017</b>	<b>\$ 8,771.51</b>
Total Memberships and Donations Received January 1 through December 31, 2017:	\$ 2,824.26
Total Distributions and Expenses January 1 through December 31, 2017:	\$ 4,179.54
<b>Samiti Closing Balance, December 31, 2017</b>	<b>\$ 7,416.23</b>