

## 2018 Annual Report

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

P.O. Box 60541 Sacramento, CA 95860-0541 FEIN # 611404419 Website: [www.maasamiti.org](http://www.maasamiti.org)

### Memorable Events and Contributions: January 1st through December 31st, 2018

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

**Samiti Membership and Satsang:** Our *thirty 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*. A new Samiti tote bag and our Samiti Souvenir booklet were distributed to all members. Vidya Pradhan performed *daily worship in the Samiti shrine* throughout the year except when out of town. **Four Samiti Satsang** gatherings were held with an average attendance of eleven women. Three meetings of the Samiti Board of Directors were held. We regret to announce the passing of Maryse Bader Smith in July. Maryse was 84 and a long time Samiti member and disciple of Swami Ashokananda Maharaj.

**Financial Support Towards Girl's Education, Publications, Plus:** Our Samiti offered funds towards the Ramakrishna Sarada Mission, Pangot girls' education; towards the expansion of Rasik Bhita; as well as funds for Sri Sarada Math publications, including *Samvit: Knowledge that Leads to Enlightenment*.

**Sister Nivedita Study Circle:** Nine gatherings of the *Sister Nivedita Study Circle* were held with an average attendance of twelve 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. A field trip was held on September 8th to the First Unitarian Church in Oakland at which Swami Vivekananda spoke in March 1900 and Pravrajika Vivekaprana Mataji spoke on September 24, 2016 on the “Guru Disciple Relationship between Sister Nivedita and Swami Vivekananda”. Also, Mary Archana Tamraz prepared an *Alphabetical Reference Guide to Key People with whom or about whom Sister Nivedita Corresponded* as these appear in the 880+ *Letters of Sister Nivedita*. Some assistance was also provided by Pravrajika Virajapranaji, Swami Ishadhyananandaji, and Anna Hourihan. This Guide was made available electronically as well as in hard copy form for interested members and friends.

**Antaryoga Retreat: “Meditations on the Upanishads” facilitated by Pravrajika Dayaprana.** From Friday, April 20th through Monday, April 23rd, an intensive live-in retreat was held at the Mercy Center in Auburn. Selections from the Chandogya and Taittiriya

Upanishads were contemplated upon along with walking meditation and chanting. Eight Samiti members participated.

**Annual Summer Retreat at Olema.** We held our *annual summer retreat at Olema* from Wednesday, August 1st to Sunday, August 5th with eighteen participants. Pravrajika Vedaprana of the Vedanta Society of Northern California Convent guided a daylong retreat on *Making of the Dedicated One—Mother’s Child, Swamiji’s Child*. And a member directed daylong retreat, *Invoking the Holy Mother as a Spiritual Practice* was held.

**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 daily worship, food preparation, offerings at special events, and participation in the choir. Two members served on the Vedanta Society Board. Three members, Barbara O’Brien, Mary Archana Tamraz and Maria Reyes offered more than forty days service to the Vedanta Society of Northern California as *Caretakers at the Olema Women’s Retreat House*.

**Parliament of the World’s Religions, Toronto, held** from November 1st through November 7th, 2018. “The Promise of Inclusion, the Power of Love: Pursuing Global Understanding, Reconciliation, and Change” was the theme. Anna Hourihan participated.

#### **Financial Overview for 2018:**

<b>Samiti Opening Balance, January 1, 2018</b>	<b>\$ 7,416.23</b>
Total Memberships and Donations Received January 1 through December 31, 2018:	\$ 8,114.34
Total Distributions and Expenses January 1 through December 31, 2018:	\$ 6,707.41
<b>Samiti Closing Balance, December 31, 2018</b>	<b>\$ 8,823.16</b>

#### **Board of Directors for 2018:**

Ranu Pandey, Mary Archana Tamraz, Susan Harrell, Tanene Kurtenbach, and Kathryn Solorzano