

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

**Memorable Events: January 1st through December 31st, 2015**

**Satyamayi** (Cleo Fern Andersen), a founding member of our Samiti, the manager of the Vedanta Book Store, and secretary to Swami Shraddhananda Maharaj for thirty-five years, left her body on September 9th at the age of 91. Our Samiti assisted with the Memorial Service for her at the Vedanta Society and also shared segments of her videotaped interview as a Pioneer Woman of Vedanta.

Our **thirty-one Samiti members** studied the universal teachings of the Holy Mother, Sri Ramakrishna, and Swami Vivekananda, and received 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 occasional travel required her to be away. Six monthly **Samiti Satsangs** were held with an average attendance of twelve women. **Sri Saraswati Puja** was celebrated with eighteen participants including Pravrajika Vedapranaji of the Vedanta Convent of Northern California. One special reading of the **Sri Chandi** was held with 3 participants. Five meetings of the Samiti Board of Directors were held. We offered **financial support** towards Sri Sarada Math girls' education as well as publications including *Samvit*, the *Understanding Vedanta Lecture* series and newly published books on Sister Nivedita.

We collaborated with others across the country to **sponsor Revered Pravrajika Vivekaprana**, a senior sannyasini of Sri Sarada Math, India, in America. Three retreats shall commence in the fall, 2016. An inspiring retreat on “**Mother’s Untold Stories: Making Them Our Own**” was offered in Sacramento on June 20th with Pravrajika Virajaprana of the Vedanta Convent of Northern California. Twenty women participated. A **Summer Retreat at Olema** was held from August 19th to 23rd with fifteen participants. Pravrajika Vedaprana offered a daylong study on “The Poetry of Swami Vivekananda. Ranu Pandey guided an interactive program on “Finding Our Own Voice through Creative Expression”. And Pravrajika Virajaprana facilitated a daylong study of “Worship of the Spirit by the Spirit”.

Vidya Pradhan joined with Joan Shack on a **Pilgrimage to Thousand Island Park** in New York. Vidya was interviewed on video as a Pioneer Woman of Vedanta. Barbara Smith facilitated a **Group Pilgrimage to Pangot** to study with Revered Vivekapranaji in India. Usha Chenna, Maria Reyes, and Mary Tamraz participated in the **Parliament of the Worlds’ Religions** in Salt Lake City from October 14 to 19.

Maria Reyes is helping create an interactive segment of the **Samiti website on Pilgrimage** to holy places associated with the Holy Mother, the Master, and Swami Vivekananda in India. Jeff Wilson continues to upload current information and **maintain our Samiti website**. Several members explored the process of **Collective Presenting** as a way to deepen group interactions. Lynette Lee, Victoria Raines, and Susan Harrell introduced the process; Ranu Pandey, Gwyn Fellows, Betty Diamond, and Mary Tamraz later participated.

Our members actively **volunteered at the Vedanta Society** of Sacramento through the performance of daily worship, food preparation, offerings at special events, and participation in the choir and lectures. Two members served on the Vedanta Society Board. We offered a total of thirty-five days service to the Vedanta Society of Northern California as **Caretaker at the Olema Women’s Retreat House**.

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**Financial Overview for 2015**

<b>Samiti Opening Balance, January 1, 2015</b>	<b>\$ 5,293.55</b>
Total Memberships and Donations Received Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2015:	\$ 4,103.00
Total Distributions and Expenses Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2015:	\$ 4,754.24
Samiti Closing Balance, December 31, 2015	\$ 4,642.31

\*Note that \$3,025. in expenses for 2016 projects were paid this year. Thus distributions exceeded receipts.