

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

Memorable Events: January 1st through December 31st, 2016

Our *thirty 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. Three monthly *Samiti Satsangs* were held with an average attendance of ten women. Four meetings of the Samiti Board of Directors were held. Six gatherings of the *Sister Nivedita Study Circle* were held with an average attendance of nine participants. We offered *financial support* towards Sri Sarada Mission Pangot girls’ education as well as Sri Sarada Math publications including *Samvit*, the *Understanding Vedanta Lecture* series and newly published books on Sister Nivedita.

An inspiring retreat on Sister Nivedita’s “*The Master as I Saw Him*” was offered in Sacramento on April 9th with Pravrajika Dayaprana of the Vedanta Convent of Southern California (Sixteen participants). “*Pilgrimage to the Himalayas: A Video Presentation*” with Pravrajika Dayaprana was presented on April 10th (fourteen participants). Our *Annual Summer Retreat at Olema* was held from August 17th to 21st with thirteen participants. A talk on the *Gospel of the Holy Mother and Sister Nivedita* was given by Swami Asutoshananda; and Pravrajika Vedaprana offered a daylong retreat on *Sister Nivedita: Her Life with Swamiji and the Holy Mother*.

We collaborated with others across the country to *sponsor Revered Pravrajika Vivekaprana*, a senior sannyasini of Sri Sarada Math, India, in America to inaugurate celebrations of the 150th birth anniversary of Sister Nivedita. On Saturday afternoon, September 24th, Vivekaprana Mataji presented *The Guru-Disciple Relationship between Sister Nivedita (Margaret Noble) and Swami Vivekananda* at the First Unitarian Church’s Hamilton Hall in Oakland, California at which Swami Vivekananda spoke in March, 1900 with 125 participants in attendance representing Vedanta Societies of Sacramento, Berkeley, San Francisco, Hollywood including convent members and friends. Also, three five-day retreats were held including *Understanding Raja Yoga for the West* from September 26-30; *The Universe and the Individual: the Macrocosm and the Microcosm* from October 3-7; and *Inquiry into the Nature of the Seer and What is Seen* from October 10-14, 2016. Attendance ranged from sixteen to twenty-two participants in each retreat.

Jeff Wilson continues to *maintain our Samiti website at: www.maasamiti.org* The vimeo of Revered Vivekapranaji’s talk on the “Guru Disciple Relationship” has already been posted to the Home Page. Maria Reyes, Ranu Pandey, and Mary Tamraz are assisting Jeff with the review of the the three fall retreats videotaped by him for potential uploading to the Samiti website. Maria Reyes also continues to research towards an interactive segment of the *Samiti website on Pilgrimage* to holy places associated with the Holy Mother, the Master, and Swami Vivekananda in India.

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. One member served on the Vedanta Society Board. Two of our members, Mary Archana Tamraz and Maria Reyes offered more than forty-five days to the Vedanta Society of Northern California as *Caretakers at the Olema Women’s Retreat House*.

Financial Overview for 2016

Samiti Opening Balance, January 1, 2016	\$ 4,642.31
Total Memberships and Donations Received Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2016:	\$ 32,072.01
Total Distributions and Expenses Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2016:	\$ 27,942.81
Samiti Closing Balance, December 31, 2016	\$ 8,771.51

