

2019 Annual Report

Sri Sarada Mahila Samiti of Northern California

P.O. Box 60541 Sacramento, CA 95860-0541 FEIN # 61-1404419 Website: www.maasamiti.org

“Make this whole world your own, my daughters. No one is a stranger.” The Holy Mother

Memorable Events and Contributions: January 1st through December 31st, 2019

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*. 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 twelve women. **Four Samiti Board of Directors meetings** were held.

Special Samiti Worship Events: **Sri Saraswati Puja** was held on February 1st with eighteen participants. Vidya Pradhan performed the worship. **Reading of the Sri Sri Chandi** was held on October 1st with eleven participants reading and singing the entire *Chandi* aloud.

Financial Support Towards Girl’s Education, Publications, Plus: Our Samiti provided funds towards the Ramakrishna Sarada Mission, Pangot Girls’ Education Project including expenses of eighteen deserving girls; funds for Sri Sarada Math publications, including the *Understanding Vedanta* series and *Samvit: Knowledge that Leads to Enlightenment*; and towards the *Golden Jubilee Celebrations* of the Ramakrishna Sarada Mission, New Delhi.

Sister Nivedita Study Circle: Eight gatherings of the *Sister Nivedita Study Circle* were held with an average attendance of twelve women and men participants. Swamis Prapannananda and Ishadhyanananda of the Vedanta Society of Sacramento participated. Pravrajika Vivekaprana of the Ramakrishna Sarada Mission Pangot graciously responded by email to questions raised during our study circles.

Antaryoga Retreat: “Meditations on the Upanishads”: Selections from the *Madhu Vidya, Chandogya, and Prashna Upanishads* facilitated by Pravrajika Dayaprana of the Sri Sarada Convent, Hollywood. From Tuesday, April 16th through Friday, April 19th, an intensive live-in retreat was held at the Mercy Center in Auburn. Nine Samiti members participated.

Annual Summer Retreat at Olema was held in the Women’s Retreat House from Wednesday, July 31st to Sunday, August 4th with eighteen participants. Two senior sannyasinis of the Vedanta Society of Northern California Convent facilitated daylong retreats. Pravrajika Vedaprana guided *“Holy Mother: Key to the Essence of Life”*. Pravrajika Virajaprana presented *“Sri Sarada Devi: A Silent Transformer.”*

An interactive retreat, “Being and Becoming: Transforming Our Own Lives” was guided by Pravrajika Virajaprana based upon her article, *“The Takeaway Message”*. Usha and Subbanna Chenna of El Dorado Hills hosted thirty-one women and men on September 14th.

Samiti Website: Jeff Wilson *maintains our Samiti website at:* www.maasamiti.org *Videos of Sannyasinis* of Sri Sarada Math and the Ramakrishna Sarada Mission, as well as of the Vedanta Convents in America are posted.

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. One member served on the Vedanta Society Board. Three members including Barbara O'Brien, Mary Archana Tamraz and Maria Reyes offered more than fifty days of service to the Vedanta Society of Northern California as *Caretakers at the Olema Women's Retreat House*.

Financial Overview for 2019:

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| Samiti Opening Balance, January 1, 2019 | \$ 8,823.16 | |
| Total Memberships and Donations Received January 1 through December 31, 2019: | \$ 8,816.19 | |
| Total Distributions and Expenses January 1 through December 31, 2019: | \$ 8,218.18 | |
| Sri Sarada Mahila Samiti Closing Balance, December 31, 2019 | | \$ 9,421.17 |

Board of Directors for 2019:

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