

## 2020 Annual Report

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

Post Office Box 60541 Sacramento, CA 95860-0541 FEIN # 61-1404419 Website: [www.maasamiti.org](http://www.maasamiti.org)

*“The Mother of the Universe is the Mother of all. From Her have come out both good and evil.....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, 2020

**Samiti Membership and Satsang:** Our *twenty-nine 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. **Only one Samiti Satsang** gathering was held in February with eleven women in the Samiti shrine. One **Zoom Samiti Satsang** was held in September with nineteen participants. A special dinner with Robert Grant of Sydney, Australia was held in February followed by a program featuring Revered Pravrajika Ajayaprana Mataji's work in Australia on behalf of the Sri Sarada Math for more than thirty years. **Five Samiti Board of Directors in person and Zoom meetings** were held during the year.

**Samiti founding member, Donna Irwin**, left her body due to a massive heart attack. Donna was among the ten original signers of our appeal to the State of California for non-profit status. She served on our Board of Directors from 2002 and generously donated funds for the visits of the Pravrajikas of Sri Sarada Math.

**Special Samiti Worship Events:** On Mahalaya, twelve members gathered via Zoom to read Chapter Eleven of the Sri Chandi aloud and experience a special puja by Vidya Pradhan. The reading of the *Sri Sri Chandi and the Veiling Brilliance* has been conducted via Zoom twice a week from September, 2020 and continuing into the new year with nine participants reading and chanting aloud. Also, special celebrations were live streamed from Sri Sarada Math, Dakshineswar; Belur Math, Kolkata; and Vedanta Societies in the West. Thus, our members and friends throughout the world could honor Sri Durga, Sri Maa Kali, and Sri Jagaddhatri in spite of the pandemic.

**Sister Nivedita Study Circle:** Two gatherings of the *Sister Nivedita Study Circle* were held in February and March with eleven women and men participants. Swamis Prapannananda and Ishadhyanananda of the Vedanta Society of Sacramento participated. Remaining gatherings were cancelled due to the Pandemic lockdown.

**Zoom Classes:** A number of our Samiti members and friends across the country participated in eighteen weekly classes on Sri Shankaracharya's *Atma Bodha* as guided

by Pravrajika Divyanandaprana of Sri Ramakrishna Sarada Mission, New Delhi. Also, several Samiti members participated in Vedic Chanting classes with Pravrajika Dayaprana of the Vedanta Society of Southern California. Members also studied the *Aparoksha-Anubhuti* on Friday evenings with Swami Ishadhyanananda of the Vedanta Society of Sacramento. We are grateful for these opportunities for spiritual uplift.

**Annual Summer Retreat at Olema** was not held in the Women's Retreat House this year due to the closure of the Olema Retreat. *Our regular Antaryoga and other* interactive retreats were also cancelled due to the Covid Pandemic restrictions.

**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, and participation in the choir until the Covid Pandemic lockdown. One member also volunteered at Olema during the year.

**Financial Support Towards Girl's Education, Publications:** Our Samiti provided funds towards the Ramakrishna Sarada Mission, New Delhi Education Project, as also the Sri Sarada Math Rasik Bhita computer technology project; funds for Sri Sarada Math publications, including the *Science of Happiness: According to Yoga-Vedanta* by Pravrajika Divyanandaprana and the Sri Sarada Math journal, *Samvit: Knowledge that Leads to Enlightenment*.

**\*Building Fund Established.** Through the generosity and trust of the Sri Sarada Society of New York, \$ 84,000. was transferred to the Sri Sarada Mahila Samiti of Northern California to establish a regular and/or permanent presence of the Sri Sarada Math in the West somewhere in the United States in the future. These funds are maintained and safeguarded separately from regular Samiti operations.

**Samiti Website:** Jeff Wilson *maintained our Samiti website at:* [www.maasamiti.org](http://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.

**Financial Overview for 2020: Samiti Opening Balance, January 1, 2020 \$ 9,421.17**

\*Total Memberships and Donations January 1 through December 31, 2020: \$ 92,857.68

Total Distributions and Expenses January 1 through December 31, 2020 \$ 7,211.61

**\*Sri Sarada Mahila Samiti Closing Balance, December 31, 2020 \$95,067.24**

**Board of Directors for 2020:**

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

**Sri Sarada Mahila Samiti of Northern California**  
**P.O. Box 60541 Sacramento, CA 95860-0541 Website: [www.maasamiti.org](http://www.maasamiti.org)**  
**FEIN # 61-1404419**

**“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much!” -Helen Keller**

**“Mother alone is your leader!” -Most Revered Amalaprana Mataji**

Tuesday, January 5, 2021  
Holy Mother, Sri Sarada Devi's Birthday

Dear Samiti Sisters and friends,

The Covid 19 pandemic which spread around the earth throughout 2020 also significantly impacted the activities of our Sri Sarada Mahila Samiti. We introduced an ambitious program calendar in January, 2020 which had to be adapted to the ever changing circumstances which presented themselves including lockdowns and stay at home orders.

We are ready to cross the threshold into 2021 with the fervent prayer that we may continue to follow Holy Mother's guidance and leadership.

**Please join us and renew your membership for 2021.**

The benefits of membership include the opportunity to participate fully in the Samiti's activities both virtual and in person; and to receive the bi-annual English journal of the Sri Sarada Math, *Samvit Knowledge that Leads to Enlightenment*, which is published in March and September.

The Sri Sarada Mahila Samiti of Northern California is a nonprofit religious corporation approved by the State of California on August 23, 2002. "Our purpose is to provide educational programs in the United States which are based on the ancient spiritual wisdom of India, and to offer financial support for projects in India and in other countries." Membership dues and other donations are exempt from federal income tax under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The generosity of our members and friends is greatly appreciated.

**Donation checks for patron membership (\$108. plus) or regular membership (\$ 55.) can be issued to the Sri Sarada Samiti and mailed to: Sri Sarada Samiti P.O. Box 60541 Sacramento, CA 95860. Donations can also be made towards our special projects like the Pangot Education Fund. Kindly note the purpose on the check.**

With love and gratitude,

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Ranu Pandey, President

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