

## SEPTEMBER 2022

### ALL EVENTS IN PERSON AND ONLINE

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

Go to [vedanta.org](http://vedanta.org) for internet links.

**For in-person events, for the safety of all, masks are strongly recommended.**

### HOLLYWOOD TEMPLE

SUNDAY SPIRITUAL TALKS 11 AM

4 'Real ID': Vedanta Perspective  
Swami Sarvadevananda

**11 Special Lecture celebrating  
125 Years of the Ramakrishna  
Mission and the Diamond Jubilee  
of Sarada Convent**  
Swami Chetanananda  
Head, Vedanta Society of St. Louis

18 The Divinity of Man  
Swami Vedarupananda

25 Self-Sustained  
Swami Chidbrahmananda

### Classes

6 Tuesday 4:30 PM  
*Srimad Bhagavatam*  
Swami Sarvadevananda

13,20,27 No Class

6 Tuesday 7:30 PM  
*Shanti Gita*  
Swami Sarvadevananda

13,20,27 *Isa Upanishad*  
Swami Medhananda

Wednesdays 7:30 PM  
*Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna*

7 Swami Sarvadevananda

14, 21 Swami Sumanasananda

28 Swami Chidbrahmananda

Thursdays 7:30 PM

1, 8 Vivekananda's *Karma Yoga*  
Swami Mahayogananda

15, 22 Vedic Christianity  
Swami Chidbrahmananda

29 Spiritual Talk  
Swami Sumanasananda

Fridays 7:30

16 What the Disciples Said about  
Sound and Vibrations, followed by  
a Sound Meditation facilitated by  
Alok on Singing Bowls

23, 30 Living Wisdom of Swami  
Abhedananda  
Swami Atmavidyananda

### OTHER EVENTS

3 Saturday 6:30 PM Ram Nam

5 Monday 10 AM – 1 PM  
Labor Day Retreat  
Collective reading of the  
*Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna*

10 Saturday 9 AM – 1 PM  
Karma Yoga Day

Saturday classes with Pr. Dayaprana

10, 17 2:30 – 4:00 PM

Chanting Class

24 **On-line only:** Antaryoga Retreat  
Devi Mahatmayam 6 – 8 AM  
Register by Sept. 22  
[dayaprana@vedanta.org](mailto:dayaprana@vedanta.org)

Sundays 9 – 10:35 AM

Sanskrit Class  
Sukirtha Alagaraswamy  
Contact: [sukirtha@vedanta.org](mailto:sukirtha@vedanta.org)

**23 Friday 7 AM Vigil**

### Navaratri Chanting Sept. 25 to Oct. 5

**ALL EVENTS IN PERSON AND ONLINE  
For in-person events, masks are strongly  
recommended for the safety of all.**

### SANTA BARBARA TEMPLE

SUNDAY SPIRITUAL TALKS 11 AM

4 The Divinity of Man  
Swami Vedarupananda

11 'Real ID': Vedanta Perspective  
Swami Sarvadevananda

18 See the Stars from Where You Are  
Swami Chidbrahmananda

25 The Joy of Drunkenness  
Swami Arupeshananda

### Classes and Other Events

Wednesdays 5 PM

*Spiritual Treasures*  
Pravrajika Krishnaprana

10 Saturday 5 PM *Bhagavad Gita*  
Swami Sarvadevananda

3,17,24 Saturday 5 PM  
*Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna*

### Navaratri Chanting Sept. 25 to Oct. 5

*Durga Puja will be celebrated on Saturday  
October 1, 11 AM at our Santa Barbara  
Temple*

### RAMAKRISHNA MONASTERY

Orange County

Wednesdays In person and online  
6:30 PM Arati

7:30 PM Satsanga With The Trabuco  
Brothers

SUNDAY SPIRITUAL TALKS 11 AM

4,11 No Talks

18 The Necessary "Ego"  
Swami Dhyanyogananda

25 Lessons from Harvard  
Swami Harinamananda

Sundays, 3 PM

Spanish classes in person and online

### Navaratri Chanting Sept. 25 to Oct. 5

### SAN DIEGO CENTER

Go to [sandiegovedanta.org](http://sandiegovedanta.org) for listings

Vedanta Online Courses

Go to [vedantalifeacademy.com](http://vedantalifeacademy.com)

SATURDAY SPIRITUAL TALKS 11AM

3, 10 No Talks

17 Lessons from Harvard  
Swami Harinamananda

24 Understanding the Mind  
Swami Dhyanyogananda

### Navaratri Chanting Sept. 25 to Oct. 5

### PIÑON HILLS RETREAT High Desert

No in-person events this month

## THE VEDANTA SOCIETY ONLINE

For information: [www.vedanta.org](http://www.vedanta.org)

For books: [www.vedanta.com](http://www.vedanta.com)

Watch past programs at  
[youtube.com/vedantaorg](http://youtube.com/vedantaorg)

### About the Vedanta Society

Vedanta teaches that humanity's real nature is divine, that the true object of human life is to unfold and manifest this divinity, and that truth is universal. Vedanta accepts all the religions of the world and reveres the great prophets, teachers and sons of God, because it recognizes the same divine inspiration in all.

**The Vedanta Society of Southern California** was founded in 1930 and incorporated as a non-profit religious corporation in 1934. The Society maintains a temple, convent, and monastery in both Hollywood and Santa Barbara; a monastery and shrine each in San Diego and Trabuco Canyon; and the Vivekananda House in South Pasadena. There are a number of official Vedanta societies in the United States, Europe and South America. Although the societies are under the spiritual guidance of the Ramakrishna Order of India, each is an independent, self-supporting unit.

**Membership** is open to those who are seriously interested in the teachings of

Vedanta and have attended lectures and classes for some time. In addition, an interview with Swami Sarvadevananda is required. Applications are available in the Society office and/or bookshops.

**Private instruction** in spiritual practice is available by appointment from Swami Sarvadevananda to those who have attended classes and lectures for some time and want to deepen their spiritual life in the path of meditation. There is no charge for this instruction. Appointments may be made at the local centers

**Information and a large selection of books** on Vedanta and other religions are available at the Hollywood, Trabuco and Santa Barbara bookshops. Some books are also available at the San Diego Center. Check our website for current hours. Some of our centers maintain a lending library for the use of members.

### From the *Complete Works of Swami Abhedananda*

As the primordial Energy personified, Goddess Durga created all worldly things. The very power of Hers which has created animals has also grown and sustained vegetables and plants. Hence her name has been 'Śākambhari' (The 'herb-bearing' or the 'herb nourishing').

On the first day of Durga worship it is the custom to pay regard to an image of a goddess made of the leaves of nine plants

and supposed to represent Durga. The said image is called *Nava-patrikā* (commonly called *Kala-bau*), or the Goddess Durga in her nine forms. This *Nava-patrikā* consists of varied types of fruits, roots, corns and flowers ... which, when bound together, give rise to the image of *Nava-patrikā* which may be called a symbol of agricultural wealth.

On the bright fifth waxing in Māgha, Goddess Sarasvati is invoked by every Hindu. ... The word *Sarasvati* stands for 'a river with abundant current of water'. The Vedas say Sarasvati was the inspirer of all kinds of knowledge. Undoubtedly therefore, she was the goddess of learning even though she was a river. Sarasvati is regarded as the presiding goddess of all branches of knowledge, such as fine arts, mechanics and the art of music and dancing. Later when the image of Goddess Sarasvati was conceived, the symbols of the river, the water, the lotus, and the swan were retained, while, at the same time, in her hands were placed a book, a pen, and a Veena, and the complexion of her body was made gleaming white, suggestive of pure illuminating knowledge of wisdom. Being thus identified with the Goddess of Speech personifying the *Śabda-brahman* (the Logos, or the Word of God-incarnate), she began to be adored by men. Two things emanate from Her—one, suggestive of sound, the other suggestive of letter. That is why in the hands of Sarasvati are placed a Veena, symbolizing the first, and a book symbolizing the second (*śabda* and *mātrikā-varna*).

## Monthly Bulletin SEPTEMBER 2022



Santa Barbara Temple

**Vedanta Society  
of Southern California**

Ramakrishna Order of India

Minister

**SWAMI SARVADEVANANDA**

Assistant Minister

**SWAMI SUMANASANANDA**

Hollywood · Orange County

Santa Barbara · South Pasadena

San Diego · High Desert