

April 2025 Events



Vedanta Society of Northern California



VEDANTA SOCIETY
of NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

125TH ANNIVERSARY

YOU ARE THE SOUL, FREE AND ETERNAL, EVER FREE, EVER BLESSED.
- SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

SAN FRANCISCO VEDANTA SOCIETY • APRIL 2025 •



SHANTI ASHRAMA PILGRIMAGE —125th Anniversary Program— SATURDAY • APRIL 26 • 11 A.M.

You are most cordially invited to join our annual pilgrimage to Shanti Ashrama on Saturday, April 26, as we observe the 125th anniversary of its founding. The program will begin at 11 a.m. and will end at 3:45 p.m.

• *If you would like to attend, RSVP by April 22 at this [link](#).* •

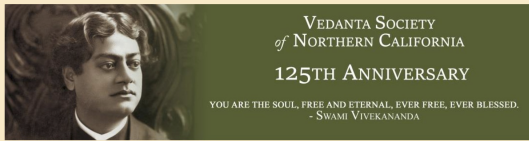


The theme of the day will be the 125th anniversary of the founding of Shanti Ashrama by Swami Turiyananda, a direct disciple of Sri Ramakrishna. Swami Yogatmananda of the Vedanta Society of Providence, Rhode Island, will be our special guest. Swami Shantivratana of the Ramakrishna Vedanta Centre, Dublin, Ireland, will also participate in the program along with swamis of Northern California.

Shanti Ashrama is of special significance to us. In 1900 Minnie C. Boock offered a tract of land of 160 acres in San Antonio Valley, California, to Swami Vivekananda as a gift. Swamiji accepted the offer, and in August 1900 Swami Turiyananda with a small group of students went to establish a retreat, which he named Shanti Ashrama.

The program will consist of a worship (puja), flower offerings by devotees, talks, chanting, and tours of the Ashrama.





The Vedanta Society of Northern California cordially invites you to join the

Shanti Ashrama Pilgrimage

Saturday • April 26, 2025 • 11:00 a.m.

— R.S.V.P. by April 22 on our website —

The theme of the day will be the 125th anniversary of the founding of Shanti Ashrama by Swami Turiyananda, a direct disciple of Sri Ramakrishna. Swami Yogatmananda of the Vedanta Society of Providence will be our special guest. Swami Shantivratana of the Ramakrishna Vedanta Centre, Dublin, Ireland, will also participate in the program along with swamis of the Bay Area.

Shanti Ashrama is of special significance to us. It was given to Swami Vivekananda in 1900, and there Swami Turiyananda and Swami Trigunatita, both direct disciples of Sri Ramakrishna, gave rigorous training to spiritual aspirants and themselves lived an intense spiritual life.

Please bring:

- a pillow or chair to sit on (a few chairs will be provided)
- a sun hat, a warm jacket, etc., since the weather can be quite variable
- your lunch and drinking water.

Coffee, tea, juice, and dessert will be provided at lunchtime.

We hope you will be able to come and will find yourself uplifted by the peace of this beautiful retreat.

PROGRAM

11:00 a.m.

Meditation and Formal Worship

Swami Aparananda

Flower Offerings by Devotees

12:30 p.m.

Lunch

1:30 p.m.

Talks by Swamis

“Swami Turiyananda and Shanti Ashrama”

Swami Yogatmananda, Providence, RI

“Shanti Ashrama: The First Hindu Shrine in the West”

Swami Aparananda

“Shanti Ashrama Pilgrimage: Its Spiritual Significance”

Swami Prapannananda, Sacramento

Chanting from the “Narayana Suktam”

Swami Prasannatmananda, Berkeley

Chanting from the “Durga Suktam”

Swami Ishadhyananda, Sacramento

“The Path to Inner Peace”

Swami Shantivratana, Dublin, Ireland

“Shanti Ashrama: A Landmark in America’s Religious History”

Swami Tattwamayana, San Francisco

3:45 p.m.

Tours of the Ashrama



The Ashrama is located in San Antonio Valley and is about two-and-a-half



hour drive from San Francisco, much of it along a windy road. Our usual route is via Mines Road, however, there is an alternate route via Patterson, which is less windy but longer by 20-25 minutes. Here is a [link](#) with route options via Mines Road from the temple.

We hope that you will find inspiration in this peaceful and meditative place.

Sunday Lectures

Sunday, April 6, 11 a.m.
"The Spiritual Legacy of Shanti Ashrama"
Swami Tattwamayananda



Sunday, April 13, 11 a.m.
NO LECTURE

Sunday, April 20, 11 a.m. (Easter Sunday)
"The Message of Easter"
Swami Tattwamayananda

Sunday, April 27, 11 a.m.
NO LECTURE

Links: [YouTube](#) • [Facebook](#)

— SUNDAY ONLINE CLASS —



THE FOUNDATIONAL TEXTS OF INDIAN PHILOSOPHY

by Swami Tattwamayananda

Sundays, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. PDT

(This class is hosted by the Stanford Hindu Students Association.)

Please check our website for any changes to the schedule.

This program will be broadcast live at these links:

[Zoom Link](#) • [YouTube](#) • [Facebook](#)

*"The authority of the Vedas extends to all ages, climes, and persons;
that is to say, their application is not confined to
any particular place, time, and persons."*

VESPERS & MEDITATION

Wednesdays • 7:30 p.m.

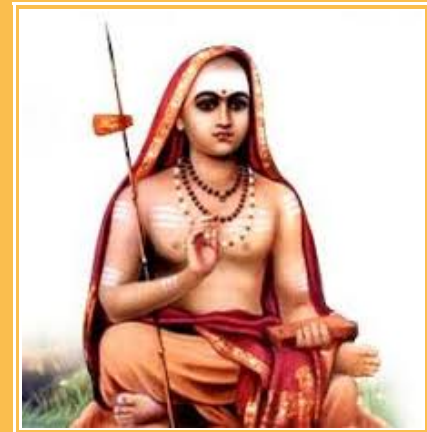
New Temple Auditorium

- Worship
- Devotional singing
- Meditation



VIVEKACHUDAMANI OF SHANKARACHARYA
FRIDAYS • 7:30-8:30 P.M. PDT
OLD TEMPLE, AUDITORIUM ENTRANCE ON FILBERT ST.

Swami Tattwamayananda gives a scripture class on Friday evenings at the Old Temple at 7:30 p.m. The subject for study is the Vivekachudamani of Shankaracharya. *There will be no class on April 25.*



"Vivekachudamani," which means "The Crest Jewel of Wisdom," is a poem by Adi Shankaracharya that summarizes Advaita Vedanta philosophy and is one of its important introductory texts.

Links: [YouTube](#) • [Facebook](#)

The New Temple is open for meditation every day from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m., except on Tuesdays, when the temple is closed. Please dress conservatively when visiting the temple. Thank you.

Child care is available during Sunday lectures and on special occasions.

Sunday school is held in person at the Old Temple. An option to attend online is also available.

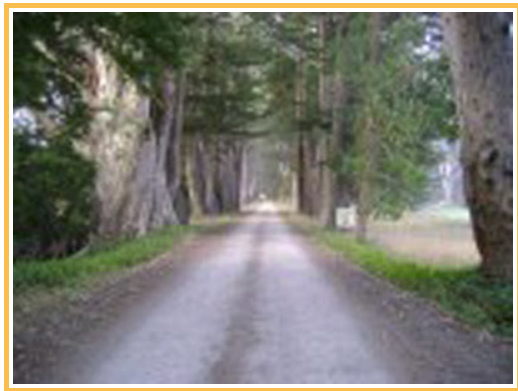
The bookshop is open on Sundays after the lecture until 4 p.m. as well as on Saturdays from 1 - 4 p.m. Bookshop orders may be placed [online](#) and by phone.



VISITING THE VEDANTA RETREAT

DAY VISITS

Sincere spiritual seekers are welcome for the purpose of meditation and contemplation from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. every day. All day visitors are welcome in the meditation room as well as in the library of the Men's Retreat House. The Women's Retreat House is not open for day visits. When you arrive please park your car in the parking lot near the monastery (green barn) and ring the bell so that we may orient you to the property.



OVERNIGHT STAYS

The purpose of the retreat houses is to provide a quiet and secluded place where seekers may devote themselves to serious spiritual study, prayer, and meditation, free from distraction. There are no scheduled classes or activities. Each person plans his or her own retreat. This is a uniquely valuable opportunity for cultivating deeper spiritual practice. Sincere spiritual aspirants are welcome to retreat in silence and solitude. Retreats may be taken for 1-5 days, not more than





once a month. If you have been an overnight retreatant before, you may call the reservation desk on Mondays and Fridays from 2-4 p.m. to schedule a retreat. The phone number is 415-922-2323. New candidates for a retreat may call to request an interview with a

swami at the same hours and phone number. Further information on the [retreat](#) is available on our website.

Except for worships, most of our online programs are streamed from the Old Temple. **Our Sunday lectures, classes, and retreats are available as podcasts on all major platforms.** Please continue to monitor our website sfvedanta.org for the latest information. Inquiries can be emailed to temple@sfvedanta.org.



*Peace is in the heavens.
Peace is in the sky, on the earth, and in the waters.
The herbs, plants, and trees are all full of peace.
The gods are peaceful.
Everything in the universe is pervaded by peace.
May this eternal, universal peace enter our soul and being.
Om. Peace, peace, peace.*

- Shanti (Peace) Mantra, Dyau Shanti



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