

Vedanta Center of Greater Washington, DC

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JANUARY 2012 SCHEDULE

Minister: Swami Swahananda

Resident Swamis: Swami Atmajnanananda
Swami Brahmarupananda
Swami Mahayogananda

Ramakrishna Order of India

<p><u>Sunday Lecture 11:00 AM</u></p> <p>1 Lecture canceled due to Kalpataru Day Celebration See under <u>Special Programs</u></p> <p>8 Swami Brahmarupananda Sadhana Panchakam: “On Spiritual Practice” XII</p> <p>15 Birthday Celebration: Swami Vivekananda See under <u>Special Programs</u></p> <p>22 To Be Announced</p> <p>29 One-Day Meditation Retreat See under <u>Special Programs</u></p>	<p><u>Friday Class 8:00 PM</u></p> <p>6 <i>Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna</i></p> <p>13 <i>Bhagavad Gita</i></p> <p>20 <i>Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna</i></p> <p>27 <i>Gospel of Holy Mother</i></p>	<p><u>Virginia Gita Class: Saturday 3–5 PM</u></p> <p>7 Swami Brahmarupananda <i>Bhagavad Gita</i>, Chapter XVII</p> <p>Location: Nandini and Prashant Lonkar 1966 Lord Fairfax Road Vienna, VA 22182 Phone: 703-917-9275</p> <p><u>Maryland Gita Class: Sunday 4:30–6 PM</u></p> <p>8 Swami Brahmarupananda <i>Bhagavad Gita</i>, Chapter VII</p> <p>Location: K Ramakrishna 14423 Big Bear Court Silver Spring, MD 20906 301-598-9330</p>
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Ram Nam

Ram Nam will be held at the Center on **Saturday January 7** at 7:30 PM, immediately after evening arati and meditation. All are invited to stay for potluck dinner following the program.

Wednesday Meditation Class

8–8:50 PM: Mundaka Upanisad

8:50–9 PM: Meditation

Special Programs

1 Kalpataru Day Celebration

11 AM: Puja

12 Noon: Flower offering and bhajans

12:30 PM: Prasad lunch

Location: Briggs Chaney Middle School
1901 Rainbow Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20905

15 Swami Vivekananda Birthday Celebration at the Center

11 AM: Short Talk on Swami Vivekananda

11:45 AM: Worship of Swami Vivekananda
Bhajans, and Flower Offering

12:30 PM: Prasad lunch

29 One-Day Meditation Retreat at the Center

10-10:45 AM: 1. Readings and meditation

10:45-11 AM: Tea and coffee break

11-11:45 AM: 2. Readings and meditation

11:45 AM-12:30 PM: Reflection/ reading

12:30-1 PM: Lunch

1-1:45 PM: 3. Readings and meditation

Grocery Gift Cards

We urge all of you to take part in our gift card program. Gift cards for Giant, Shopper's, and Magruder's may be purchased at the Center following the Sunday lecture or during visiting hours, and are used just like a debit card when purchasing groceries. This is an important part of our monthly income and a way to support the Center at no cost to you. Those who would like to help in the sale of cards may contact Ranajit Pal at (301) 330-1634.

Directions to the Center

From the **Beltway (495)**, exit at **Georgia Avenue North (Wheaton)**. Go north on Georgia for 5.5 miles, then make a right onto **Connecticut Avenue**. Make a right at the next light (**Bel Pre Road**). Go past one light (**Homecrest**) and make an immediate left into the driveway at **3001 Bel Pre Road**.

Karma Yoga

We invite you to join us Saturday mornings from 9 AM to 1 PM in performing various weekly chores of the center: maintenance, gardening and landscaping, cleaning, office work, etc.

Food Drive

The Vedanta Center is conducting a food drive to assist in meeting local needs, through the Manna Food Center of Gaithersburg, MD. We hope our members and friends can participate by bringing non-perishable food items to the Vedanta Center.

Daily Schedule

The Vedanta Center is open daily from 4 PM to 8 PM, and also from 9 AM to 1 PM on Saturday (see **Karma Yoga**). Evening worship (*arati*) is open to the public and begins at 6:30 PM, followed by meditation.

Web Site

Please visit our updated Web Site at **www.vedantadc.org**. Listen to lecture recordings, see photographs of the center, and find out about upcoming events.

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Social Service

The Vedanta Center participates in a volunteer program at Shepherd's Table in Silver Spring. Please let us know if you would like to take part. Service is on the third Friday of the month.

From The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna

Pundit: "Does God listen to our prayers?"

Master: "God is the Kalpataru, the Wish-fulfilling Tree. You will certainly get whatever you ask of Him. But you must pray standing near the Kalpataru. Only then will your prayer be fulfilled. But you must remember another thing. God knows our inner feeling. A man gets the fulfillment of the desire he cherishes while practicing sadhana. As one thinks, so one receives. . . I used to weep, praying to the Divine Mother, 'O Mother, destroy with Thy thunderbolt my inclination to reason'. . . "God is the Kalpataru. One should pray standing near It. Then one will get whatever one desires. . . "How many things God has created! Infinite is His universe. But what need have I to know about His infinite splendors? If I must know these, let me first realize Him. Then God Himself will tell me all about them. What need have I to know how many houses and how many government securities Jadu Mallick possesses? All that I need is somehow to converse with Jadu Mallick. I may succeed in seeing him by jumping over a ditch or through a petition or after being pushed about by his gate-keeper. Once I get a chance to talk to him, then he himself will tell me all about his possessions if I ask him. If one becomes acquainted with the master, then one is respected by his officers too. (All laugh). . . Both bhaktiyoga and jnanayoga are paths by which you can realize God. Whatever path you may follow, you will certainly realize Him.