

Vedanta Center of Greater Washington, DC

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FEBRUARY 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>5 Swami Atmajnanananda For Ones Own Liberation and the Welfare of the World I</p> <p>12 Swami Atmajnanananda For Ones Own Liberation and the Welfare of the World II</p> <p>19 Swami Atmajnanananda For Ones Own Liberation and the Welfare of the World III</p> <p>26 Lecture cancelled due to Sri Ramakrishna Puja on 25th Please see under <u>Special Programs</u></p>	<p><u>Friday Class 8:00 PM</u></p> <p>3 <i>Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna</i></p> <p>10 <i>Bhagavad Gita</i></p> <p>17 <i>Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna</i></p> <p>24 <i>Gospel of Holy Mother</i></p>	<p><u>Virginia Gita Class:</u> <u>Saturday 3–5 PM</u></p> <p>The Virginia Class will be Cancelled in February.</p> <p><u>Maryland Gita Class:</u> <u>Sunday 4:30–6 PM</u></p> <p>26 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 February 4** 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

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.

Karma Yoga

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

Special Programs

20 Shiva Ratri

7:30 PM: A short worship will be performed at the Vedanta Center following evening arati, after which offerings will be made and prasad served to all.

25 Sri Ramakrishna Puja

11:00 AM–12 Noon: **Puja & bhajans**
12 Noon–12:30: **Flower offering & arati**
12:30 PM: **Prasad lunch**

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

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

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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.

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.

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.

Swami Vivekananda on Sri Ramakrishna

He looked just like an ordinary man, with nothing remarkable about him. He used the most simple language, and I thought "Can this man be a great teacher?" I crept near to him and asked him the question which I had been asking others all my life: "Do you believe in God, Sir?" "Yes" he replied. "Can you prove it, Sir?" "Yes." "How?" "Because I see Him just as I see you here, only in a much intenser sense." That impressed me at once. For the first time I found a man who dared to say that he saw God, that religion was a reality to be felt, to be sensed in an infinitely more intense way than we can sense the world. I began to go to that man, day after day, and I actually saw that religion could be given. One touch, one glance, can change a whole life. I have read about Buddha and Christ and Mohammed, about all those different luminaries of ancient times, how they would stand up and say, "Be thou whole," and the man became whole. I now found it to be true, and when I myself saw this man, all skepticism was brushed aside.

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Religion is not talk, or doctrines, or theories; nor is it sectarianism. Religion cannot live in sects and societies. It is the relation between the soul and God . . . Religion does not consist in erecting temples, or building churches, or attending public worship. It is not to be found in books, or in words, or in lectures, or in organizations. Religion consists in realization. As a fact, we all know that nothing will satisfy us until we know the truth for ourselves. However we may argue, however much we may hear, but one thing will satisfy us, and that is our own realization; and such an experience is possible for every one of us if we will only try.