

Two-week Vedanta Retreat 2010

By H. Peter Strauss

This year the Two-Week Vedanta Retreat was held at AVG Saylorsburg from September 24 to October 8. It was very well attended by both old and new students of Pujya Swamiji.

Pujya Swamiji taught two classes each day and also led the morning meditation. The text for his classes was Upadesa Sahasri, Part One, which highlights the methodology of teaching by the guru to the sishya. This particular text is unique in that it gives many important quotations from both the Upanishads and Gita.

Listening to Pujya Swamiji explain the meaning of these many quotations with his insight and humor gave us all a thorough introduction to a variety of important Vedanta topics. It was indeed food for thought for both the beginner and advanced student of Vedanta. An additional Vedanta class was taught by Swami Tattvidananda, who presented the Narada Bhakti Sutras 5 in his own unique teaching style.

In addition to these Vedanta classes, other classes were offered as well. Suddhatmaji taught a Veda chanting class, Lance taught Yoga, Kalpesh Jaspara taught Sanskrit, and Pandit Mukesh Desai taught music. Each day ended with bhajans led by Mukesh followed by satsang with Pujya Swamiji. The program also included a couple of concerts by guest, musicians and vocalists as well as a talk by an author of a book on reincarnation. Contemplative walks on the property's Shanti Trail offered the participants serene and beautiful views of the fall colors of the Poconos.

It was indeed a full program. We were all blessed by the erudite scholarship and openness of both Swamijis. Pujya Swamiji made himself available throughout the day for those who needed a private interview. I'm sure that all of us who attended this year's retreat have taken away a special something that will stay in our minds and hearts and that will have made a major impact on our lives. We look forward to next year's retreat and pray for Pujya Swamiji's continued energy and health.

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Arshavidya Vikas Kendra

A1/1, Palaspatti, Bhubaneswar 751020