

# Arsha Vidya Gurukulam Saylorsburg 2018 summer report

**Summer Vedanta classes** began with talks on: "The Vision of Non-Duality", "Living Objectively", "Prayer, Meditation and Freedom", and "Karma: Action, Results and Grace" by Pujya Sri Swami Veditatmananda ji all broadcast live from his annual California tour.

On 29th of June Sri Swamiji arrived to Arsha Vidya Gurukulam for the Sri Dakṣināmūrti Temple Kumbhābhisekan culminating on Sunday, 1st of July.

**Kumbhābhisekam**  
**Lord Dakṣināmūrti Temple**  
**Friday, June 29 - Sunday, July 1, 2018**

**Day 1: Friday, June 29, 2018**  
8.00am - Noon: Anujñā Saṅkalpam and Invocation of all the devatās, and Vighneśvara pūjā, Homādi, Pūrṇāhuti etc.

4.00 - 7.00pm: Vighneśvara pūjā, Prathamakāla Pūjā, Vāstu śānti, Yāgasālā praveśam, Homādi, Pūrṇāhuti etc.

**Day 2: Saturday, June 30, 2018**  
7.30am - Noon: Vighneśvara pūjā, Dvitiyakāla Pūjā, Homādi, Pūrṇāhuti etc.

5.00 - 8.00pm: Vighneśvara pūjā, Tṛtiyakāla Pūjā, Homādi, Pūrṇāhuti etc.

**Day 3: Sunday July 1, 2018**  
7.00am - 1.00pm: Vighneśvara pūjā, Caturthakāla Pūjā, kalāśa pūjā, Japa, Homādi, Sparsāhuti etc.



With the grace of  
Svacamī Dāyananda  
Sarasvatī



Talk by Swami Veditatmananda on  
Significance of Kumbhābhisekam  
Sunday July 1, 2018

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**Arsha Vidya Gurukulam**  
Institute for Vedanta, Yoga, Ayurveda & Vedic Heritage classes  
651 Route 115, Saylorsburg, PA 18353

## July 1-4 Independence Day Vedanta course

Swami Veditatmananda began the course on 1-July at 8:00 p.m. EDT. The Topic was "*sa mahātmā sudurlabhaḥ*" (BG 7.19). Who is the very rare *mahātmā* spoken of in this verse? Ādi Śāṅkarācārya tells us that he has spent many births devoted to equipping himself for and gaining knowledge of Īśvāra. This culminates in his fully matured knowledge that "Vāsudeva is everything."

## July 7-14 -- Swami Veditatmananda taught *Bṛhadaraṇyaka-bhāsyam* 2.1.1 onward for adults.

This chapter of the *Bṛhadāraṇyaka Upaniṣad* reveals the nondual vision of the Upaniṣads by teaching the reality of what is generally taken to be real, *satyasya satyam*. Following Ādi Śāṅkarācārya's commentary for this chapter, Swami Veditatmananda unfolded that reality as the self.

In parallel the Young Adults (ages 17-21) had their course. The teenage years are a time of great changes. Having an informed understanding of Vedic values and the "value of these values" is very helpful for young adults as they take their first steps toward becoming fully contributing members of society. The gurukulam offered a week of classes on Vedic topics, meditation and universal values. Cultural awareness was enhanced by participating in group discussions, games, and music and dance performances.

Also in parallel, the Children's Vedic Course I (ages 9-16) took place with lively interactive classes based on Vedic heritage, religion, culture, universal values, and group discussion. Vedic chanting, yoga, drama, arts and crafts, games, and a nightly campfire were also very popular with the kids.

In parallel, the Children's Vedic Course (ages 9-16) was taught by Radha and Girija with cultural activity led by Savitri Mani.

### **July 22-28 -- Family Vedanta Course II**

Swami Vidadatamananda taught *Muṇḍakopaniṣad* 2.1.3-2.1.10, and *Bhagavad Gītā* 8.1 onward. In imparting the vision of oneness to Śaunaka, Ṛṣi Aṅgiras uses the method of 'cause-effect' (*kāraṇa-kārya*). This method is the most crucial in teaching Vedanta, because through it non-duality (*advaita*) can be arrived at. I understand that only I is there and that there is no second thing. Non-duality (*sarvātmabhāva*) is my nature.

Swami Pratyagbodhananda taught *Brahmājī kṛta Stuti* from *Bhāgavatam*.

### **July 29 - Aug 4 -- Family Vedanta Course III**

Swami Vidadatamananda taught *Kathopaniṣad* 2.1 and *Bhagavad Gītā* 8.1 onward. Lord Yama, having found Naciketas a fit student, fulfills his third boon in this section, answering Naciketas' informed question about the nature of the self (1.2.14)—a question about which even the Gods have doubts. First stressing the need for discrimination and clarity of purpose, Lord Yama reveals the nature of the self to be one without a second.

Swami Pratyagbodhananda taught *Nārada-bhakti-sutras*.

### **August 5-10 -- Vedanta Course**

Swami Tadatmananda taught *Pancadasī*, Ch. 6. Among the many celebrated teachers of Vedanta who followed in the footsteps of Ādi Śaṅkara, few reached the stature of Śrī Vidyāraṇya, a 14th century sannyāsi and scholar from Karnataka. His best-known work is *Pañcadaśī*, a text of fifteen chapters that unfolds the teachings of Vedanta with great originality and unparalleled clarity.

### **August 12 -- Gurukulam's 32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary - Vision of Oneness**

32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary including Children's play, music concert, main ceremony, lunch and satsang.

View on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6nP-3qKrEMs&list=PLYTbMLJyGboAiWL5hX9zQJJKmrz6X-RI>

### **August 15 -- Homa was held at 'Dayalayam' to commemorate Pujya Swamiji's Jayanti Celebrations.**

Anugnya, Vighneswara pooja, Sankalpa, Punyahavachanam, Kalasa puja, Paduka abhiseka, Rudra-trishati archana, Upanishad parayanam, Diparadhanm were offered followed by Lunch.

### **August 16-19 -- Patrons' Complimentary Course I**

Swami Vidadatamananda talked on "Living Intelligently" by unfolding the vision of Vedanta showing how there is a need to reverse the usual process of life, in which our sense of limitation and inadequacy drives us to seek happiness and fulfillment outside of ourselves. The universal human problem of feeling limited and inadequate has only one permanent solution: gaining self-acceptance through understanding my true nature.

Swami Pratyagbodhananda taught *Bhāgavatam Bhaktalakṣaṇam*

### **August 19 – INAUGURATION CEREMONY for New Lecture Hall-Kitchen-Dining Hall Complex**

Swami Veditatmananda opened the new building on 19-AUG-2018. Following the homa ceremony outside the building, the guests entered the building. There was a ribbon-cutting ceremony and then a tour of the building. Finally all the guests entered the lecture hall, took their seats, and Swami Veditatmananda came to the stage. After an opening statement Swamiji began teaching the third Sunday of the month's Gita class.

The following link opens the website, then you scroll down and click on the image of Swamiji seated on the stage to listen to his talk:

<https://arshavidya.org/new-building-inauguration-ceremony-and-bhagavad-gita-class/>

### **August 22-29 -- Vedanta Course**

Swamini Svatmavidyananda talked on Chandogya Upaniṣad (selections from Ch. 8) and *Gurustava*.

*Atmā-apahata-pāpmā* - This is a phrase that occurs in the eighth chapter of the Chandogya Upaniṣad, revealing the self as free of all omissions and commissions. Indra the king of devas and Virocana the king of the *asuras* both approach Lord Prapāpati for self-knowledge.

And she talked on *Gurustava*, a section on the praise of the guru in Sri Narahari's Bodhasāra, a highly eminent and profound work on Vedanta.

### **August 31-September 2 -- Patrons' Complimentary Course II (Labor Day Retreat) August 31 - September 2**

Swami Pratyagbodhananda unfolded a Mantra from *Mundaka Upaniṣad*.

Swami Santatmananda unfolded a Mantra from *Bṛhadaranyaka Upaniṣad*.

### **Camps for Children**

During the summer Family Vedanta Courses there were parallel courses and activities for children.

These camps are filled with lively, interactive classes based on Vedic heritage, religion, culture, universal values, and group discussion. Activities that are very popular with the kids include: Vedic chanting, yoga, drama, arts and crafts, games, and a nightly campfire. Each camp's finale was highlighted by a cultural program, in which the considerable talents of all the children were showcased thanks to Savitri Mani with assistance from Radha and Girija Srinivasan.



**Photos of inauguration function and other events are covered in Wrapper4 of this issue**