



ProVisions

One who is on the Quest needs provisions for the journey; such are these. We hope some are also visions-forward.

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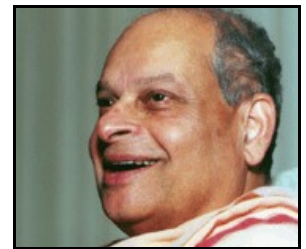
Formal Dedication of New Chapel Scheduled

We are pleased to report to you that the formal dedication of our new Chapel is scheduled for Saturday, January 13, 2007, at 10:30 a.m. The dedication ceremony will be performed by Swami Swahanandaji, Senior Minister of the Vedanta Society of Southern California, who also dedicated our property several years ago. He will have a message for us, and then lunch will be provided. A brief program will follow. Swami Ishtanandaji of the San Diego Monastery is accompanying him on this visit, seeing Atlanta for the first time.

We are blessed and honored to have Swami Swahananda to perform our dedication ceremony. The Swami is a senior monk of the Ramakrishna Order of India and was born in a village near Habiganj in what is now Bangladesh. He was initiated in 1937 by Swami Vijnanananda, one of Sri Ramakrishna's direct disciples. He received his undergraduate degree from Murari Chand College in Sylhet, India and earned an M.A. in English Literature and Language from the University of Calcutta. He joined the Ramakrishna Order in 1947 and received sannyasa, final vows, in 1956.

After joining the Order, he served in the Madras Math and, later, as editor of the Order's scholarly publication, the *Vedanta Kesari*. He came to the United States in 1968 as the Assistant Minister

of the San Francisco Vedanta Society and was later appointed head of the Vedanta Society of Berkeley, California. Immediately prior to coming to this country, the swami was head of the Delhi Center, the premier center of the Ramakrishna Order in the capital of India.



Swami Swahananda

In December of 1976 he was transferred to Hollywood, the headquarters of the Vedanta Society of Southern California, where he remains the minister today.

In the late 1980s he was invited to lecture in Moscow and provide spiritual guidance. The swami gives lectures regularly at the Vedanta branch centers in Southern California and throughout North America.

Swami Swahananda is the author of many books and articles on religious life and spirituality including: *Meditation and Other Spiritual Disciplines*; *Hindu Symbology and Other Essays*, and *Service and Spirituality*.

Portions reprinted from www.vedanta.org, the website of the Vedanta Society of Southern California.

Photographs of the Mural in our Chapel appeared in the last issue of ProVisions. It was painted by Ode Droit, a prominent artist in France. The work was commissioned by a devotee of the Vedanta Center of Atlanta. Here, she describes the meaning the Mural has for her:

The tree on the left side of the mural is the symbol of pure knowledge. The flowers represent the blossoming of eternal knowledge. The water is the sacred river with no beginning nor end. The bowing tree of knowledge is humbly offering its petals to the river, which is giving darshan to the tree. The devotion is symbolized by the shrine itself, which is crossed by the sacred river. The reflection of the moon in the sacred water symbolizes the illusion, moon remaining always full in her perfection. The right side of the mural represents the land of our ignorance. It is irrigated by the knowledge and the devotion which bring about the flourishing of our lives, and which in turn as eternal cycle offers to the river its petals and spreads the knowledge of unity.

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With the number of events occupying our time and thoughts at this season, we give you an abbreviated version of ProVisions for this month. In the meanwhile please take notice of these announcements, as well as upcoming programs and events:

The Textbook of Yoga Psychology by Swami Brahmananda Bharati is the new text we shall be using in the Thursday evening class beginning in January. The book is out of print, and students will be provided with photocopies of the lessons. It is a highly regarded work on Samkhya and Yoga by a monk who was also a medical doctor.

In the Tuesday evening class we shall continue with **A Bridge to Eternity**, a collection of the impressions of scholars and writers – from East and West – of Sri Ramakrishna, his life, message and legacy.

Dr. Swarna Shah is now on sabbatical and will be in India for some months. Announcement of the January **Ram Nam** will be sent out shortly.

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On Sunday, January 14th, we celebrate the **Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda** with the worship, pot luck lunch and brief program. **Our two distinguished visiting monks will be present for this important occasion as well.**

Our schedule of other upcoming events follows. We have a Chant Service at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday, followed by our classes:

Sunday, January 7th. **Meditation Workshop.**

Sunday, January 21st. **What We Mean by Prayer.** Talk followed by discussion.

Sunday, January 28th. **A Close Look at Islam.** Talk followed by discussion.

Sunday, February 4th. **Vedanta Center of Atlanta Annual Meeting.** The Center will provide lunch. More information about this event will be sent to you shortly.

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Vedantic Astronomer **John Dobson's 90th birthday** was observed with a celebratory brochure.

ProVisions is sent out *gratis* to our friends all over the world, by email and snail mail. Let us know which you prefer. Contributions to the cost of producing and mailing are most welcome. If you know of others who would like to receive it, please send us their names and addresses. If you no longer wish to receive it, please let us know.