

# Vedanta Society of Edmonton

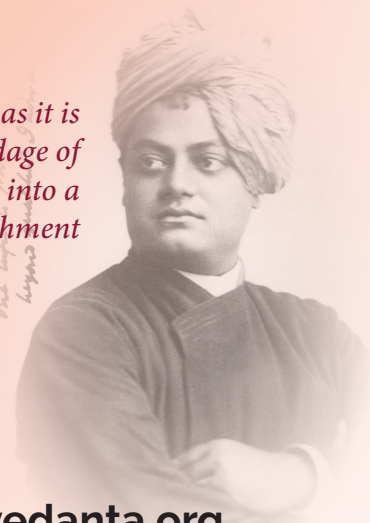


Bulletin No. **19**

**2020-2022**

## Biennial Report

*One must perform work as it is  
through work that the bondage of  
work is shattered to enter into a  
spirit of non-attachment*



[edmontonvedanta.org](http://edmontonvedanta.org)

### Aims & Objectives

1. Enable spiritual seekers and members to pursue a path of self-inquiry through knowledge, service and devotion, illuminated by Advaita Vedanta.
2. Participate in the study of texts, guided retreats by monks of the Ramakrishna Order, overseas humanitarian work, local community service, and fundraising to sustain the society.
3. Enjoy a regular space to meet every Sunday in the Swami Vivekananda Hall at the Hindu Cultural Centre.
4. Learn the universal principles of Vedanta philosophy
5. Practice Vedanta in day-to-day life
6. Spread awareness about our Society
7. Support humanitarian efforts, social challenges, alleviate poverty, improve public health, and assist children in need
8. Partner with organizations and networks to create opportunities for citizen participation for global peace and self-sufficiency

DOLCE VEDA

### Auditors

Renu Narang, 2021, 2022,  
Rajiv Aurora, 2020

*Take up an idea, devote  
yourself, struggle in  
patience, and the sun  
will rise*

#### Board

**President** Kumud Acharya

**Vice President Programs** Aruna Chakrabartty

**Vice President Administration** Thanigachalam Gowender

**Secretary** Ranjan Ghosh

**Treasurer** Bipin Chauhan

**Directors** Hansa Thaleshvar

Candice McMillan

Rajiv Ranjan

**Past President** Rajeshwar Singh

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## President's Message

It has been an honour to have served as President for the past 4 years. Enhancing personal spiritual growth through service unto others is the main tenet of the Society that has undertaken a variety of charitable causes including the alleviation of poverty and for the empowerment of women, especially in India. The financial assistance we are able to gather helps members of these communities learn and bring practical solutions around sanitation, education, and advanced education for their members.

Locally in Edmonton, we have supported charities brought to our attention by members that assisted the homeless and seniors with warm clothing during the winter months and donations to food banks in Edmonton. Whenever the need arises we are able to respond financially to other charitable organizations for relief from disasters such as fires, floods and towards shelters.

We also support local ethnocultural activities to promote harmony and better understanding for the benefit of our diverse population.

For personal spiritual growth we organize annual retreats with disciple monks of Swami Vivekananda, who provide guidance into the basic understanding of what is important in human life, human responsibilities and the meaning behind one's conduct in relation to one another, Purusha, and in relation to one's nature, Prakriti.

In practice, these lectures explain the starting place of the journey inward through daily habits, relaxation techniques, in yoga, Pranayama breathing, and meditation. These actions not only help to cope with the stresses of everyday life in modern times but also open our minds to our one true nature.

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### CONTACT

[president@edmontonvedanta.org](mailto:president@edmontonvedanta.org)

*Arise, awake, and don't  
stop till you reach your  
goal.*

# Society

# What is Vedanta?

Vedanta is the sixth school of thought as understood by various sages from the Indian subcontinent for over 5000 years.

**Samkhya:** Sage Kapila analyzed the material world and consciousness.

**Yoga:** Sage Patanjali focused on the practical application of spiritual disciplines to attain liberation from suffering.

**Nyaya:** Sage Gautama focused on logic and reasoning to attain valid knowledge.

**Vaisheshika:** Sage Kanada focused on the analysis of the material world and the nature of reality.

**Mimamsa:** Sage Jaimini focused on rituals prescribed in the interpretation of the Vedas.

**Vedanta:** Sage Vyasa focused on the interpretation of the Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gita with emphasis on the ultimate reality of Brahman and self-realization that leads to liberation from suffering.

All these schools of thought have contributed significantly to the development of Indian philosophy and have influenced many aspects of Indian culture and spirituality.

Each has a highly developed logical analysis and arguments for their point of view. Vedanta has evolved from these schools and developed a methodology that has been passed down by the Guru to

Shishya – the Teacher to Student system.

The four Vedas are authoritative texts in the Vedic corpus, foundational to Sanatana Dharma, the basis of the Hindu religion, accumulated and recorded over 5000 years ago with no attributable author. The collection of hymns and ritual texts are divided into four sections: Rigveda, Samaveda, Yajurveda, and Atharvaveda. The Upanishads are a collection of philosophical and mystical texts that form the concluding part of the Vedas. The Katha Upanishad, which has been the focus of our regular Sunday meetups, is one of the most important and influential Upanishads in Hinduism, and it is known for its profound philosophical and spiritual insights. The central theme of the Katha Upanishad is the nature of the Self (Atman) and its relationship to the ultimate reality (Brahman).

The Upanishad presents the story of a young boy named Nachiketa who, through his intense desire for knowledge and truth, seeks out the god of death, Yama, and asks him to reveal the secret of immortality. In response, Yama teaches Nachiketa the nature of the Self and the ultimate reality.

The Upanishad teaches that the Self is not the body, mind, or intellect but is an eternal, unchanging, and all-pervading consciousness that is identical with the ultimate reality (Brahman). It teaches that the ultimate goal of human life is to realize this truth and to experience the unity of the Self with Brahman. Through this realization, one can overcome the cycle of birth and death and attain liberation (Moksha).

Therefore, the Katha Upanishad can be seen as a guide to experiencing reality, as it teaches the path to self-realization and liberation. By understanding the nature of the Self and its relationship to the ultimate reality, one can attain a state of consciousness that transcends the limitations of the body and mind and experiences the ultimate truth of existence.

AUM TAT SAT  
Kumud Acharya, President

*The moral, in one word,  
is that you are divine.*

**Hindu Society Advisor,  
Shivshankar Dwivedi, Head Priest,  
Hindu Society of Alberta**

**Ramakrishna Mission Advisor,  
Swami Kripamayananda, Minister,  
Vedanta Society Toronto**

**11 03 61 175**  
MEETUPS RETREATS MEMBERS ATTENDEES

**offer fresh flowers**  
**light a stick of incense at the altar**  
**meditate**  
**watch Vedanta talks**  
**discuss**  
**become a member**  
**join a board or committee**

The Vedanta Society currently enjoys a regular meeting space on Sundays from 10:30-11:30 AM in the Swami Vivekananda Hall at the Hindu Cultural Centre on St. Albert Trail in Edmonton.



VSE engages Canadians and partners with local communities and donated to Thousand Faces Festival in support of their ethnocultural Indian classical dance event, CanNatyam Nov 4 & 6, 2022

# Local

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## 2020

May 3 ONLINE CONFERENCE  
with Swami Vimohananda on Indian Philosophy

## 2021

Programs were halted due to the Covid19 pandemic  
with plenty of meditation and online Vedanta options

## 2022

October 22-23 RETREAT with Swami Vimohananda

TOPIC: The Human Mind

June 16 RETREAT with Swami Vimohananda

TOPIC: Introduction on Aspects of the Mind

**VSE RETREAT**  
Swami Vimohananda

**ASPECTS OF THE MIND**

10:00 AM Swami Vivekananda Hall  
11:30 AM Main Temple Hall  
14225 133 Ave NW  
Edmonton, AB T5L 4W3  
Free

**JUN 19**  
2022  
**TALK**

**Vedanta Society of Edmonton**  
Swami Vivekananda Hall, Hindu Cultural Centre  
14225 133 Avenue NW Edmonton, AB T5L 4W3  
web@vse.com | edmonton@vedanta.com

a retreat with  
**Swami Vimohananda**  
in Edmonton  
on the Human Mind

Swami Vimohananda is the spiritual advisor of the Vivekananda Vedanta Society of British Columbia. He offers talks, meditation meetings, and devotional singing sessions in the Vedanta tradition inspired by Sri Bhaktishree and Swami Vivekananda.

**Oct 22 & 23, 2022**  
Swami Vivekananda Hall, Hindu Cultural Centre  
14225 133 Ave Edmonton AB T5L 4W3 and Live on Zoom

**SATURDAY**  
10:00 am The basic concept of the mind  
12:30 pm light lunch / free time  
01:30 pm 4 functions of the mind: Manas Buddhi Chitta Ahankara

**SUNDAY**  
10:30 am Mind discourse cont'd, bhajans  
11:40 pm discourse in Main temple hall, lunch  
01:30 pm DAA in Swami Vivekananda Hall until 2:30pm

**Contacts**  
Kamal Kishore 780 487 3735 / 780 883 7321 (M)  
kumard@vse.com

**Aravind Shree Chakraborty**  
vedantasocietyedmonton@gmail.com

**Free admission and open to everyone**

**RSVP**





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photo courtesy Subhas Kundu

# International



*We are what our  
thoughts have made us;  
so take care about what  
you think*



# Finances

## BALANCE SHEET

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ASSETS	2022	2021	2020
Cash - Gen Acct	\$ 10, 274.45	\$ 9,611.94	\$ 8,193.06
Cash - Cas Acct	\$ 129,960.01	\$ 61,509.65	\$ 69,098.49
Short Term Inv. Gen Acct	\$ 28,442.22	\$ 28,089.16	\$ 26,542.79
Short Term Inv. Cas Acct		\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$168,676.68</b>	<b>\$99,210.75</b>	<b>\$103,834.34</b>
MEMBERS EQUITY	2022	2021	2020
Opening Equity	\$ 99,210.75	\$ 104,502.98	\$ 135,977.86
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 69,465.93	\$ (5,292.23)	\$ (32,143.52)
	<b>\$ 168,676.68</b>	<b>\$ 99,210.75</b>	<b>\$ 103,834.34</b>
REVENUE	2022	2021	2020
AGLC	\$ 90,138.35		
Bank Fee Rebate	\$ 54.45	\$ 59.40	\$ 49.50
Refund - Sarvik	\$ -	\$ 9,606.91	\$ -
Refund - PM Cares	\$ -	\$ 925.44	\$ -
GIC Interest Cas Acct	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,227.52
Transfer Cas to Gen Acct	\$ 495.65	\$ -	\$ -
Membership	\$ 325.00	\$ 295.00	\$ 240.00
Donation	\$ 1,237.00	\$ 1,120.00	\$ 1,000.00
Interest	\$ 357.86	\$ 3.88	\$ 3.46
Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 95.00
GIC Interest Gen Acct	\$ -	\$ 877.73	\$ -
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 92,608.31</b>	<b>\$ 12,888.36</b>	<b>\$ 2,615.48</b>

# Finances

EXPENSES	2022	2021	2020
Casino	\$2,539.95	\$ -	\$ -
Project Nirdhan - Sarvik	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,296.75
Project Nirdhan - SNS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,000.00
Local Programs	\$ 2500.00	\$ -	\$ 2500.00
Facility Usage	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 7,500.00
Office Supplies	\$ 285.76	\$ 95.00	\$ 372.85
Bank Plan Charges	\$ 54.45	\$ 59.40	\$ 89.40
Donation	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
Printing		\$ 598.50	
Retreat (Sw Honorarium)	\$ 1501.00		\$ -
Retreat Travel	\$ 400.57		
Transfer Gen to Cas Acct	\$ 495.65		
Website		\$ 1000.00	
DropBox Account		\$ 311.76	
Meetup Subscription		\$115.93	
Bank Fee	\$15.00		\$ -
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 23,142.38</b>	<b>\$ 18,180.59</b>	<b>\$ 34,759.00</b>
<b>SURPLUS</b>	<b>\$ 69,465.93</b>	<b>(\$ 5292.23)</b>	<b>\$ (32,143.52)</b>

In-Person Meetups

**Swami Vivekananda Hall,  
Hindu Society of Alberta  
14225 133 Avenue NW  
Edmonton, Alberta T5L 4W3**

Social



Online

**[edmontonvedanta.org](http://edmontonvedanta.org)  
[president@edmontonvedanta.org](mailto:president@edmontonvedanta.org)**

