



*Arise ! Awake ! Stop not, till the goal is reached.*

March & April, 2026

Om Namō Narayanaya

*Sandesh*

Na Me Bhakta Pranashyati

My Devotee Never Perishes



### **Sri Adi Shankara's Quotes**

Adi Shankara (c. 8th century CE) was an influential Indian philosopher who consolidated the doctrine of Advaita Vedanta, which emphasizes the oneness of the individual self with the ultimate reality, Brahman. As a reformer and profound teacher, he established monastic centers (Mathas) across India, revived Vedic traditions, and wrote extensive commentaries on Hindu scriptures.

*"Brahma Satyam Jagan Mithya, Jivo Brahmaiva Napaarah" — The absolute truth is Brahman (the Supreme Being), the world is a relative reality (illusion), and the individual soul is non-different from Brahman."*

*"You are not the body, nor is the body yours. You are not the doer, nor the enjoyer. You are pure consciousness, the eternal witness, and free."*

*"Knowledge alone destroys ignorance, as light destroys deep darkness."*

*"The world, like a dream full of attachments and aversions, seems real until the awakening."*

*"As gold purified in a furnace loses its impurities and achieves its own true nature, the mind gets rid of the impurities of the attributes of delusion, attachment and purity through meditation and attains Reality."*

### **BADARIKASHRAMA DIARY**

New Year's Day was celebrated in a grand manner at Badarikashrama. Falling on a Thursday, the celebrations began at 10 AM with the conductance of a Sri Ganesha Homa. Many of the devotees attended with their families, joining in prayer and making offerings of samagri into the yagna (consecrated fire). Following the homa was a music concert, with Sri Amit Gud on the Sarod. He was ably accompanied on the tabla by Sri Pradosh Sarkar. The duo excelled each other during the performance, rendering mesmerizing melodies set to traditional and classical rhythms. The hour-long performance concluded to a resounding applause! Around mid-day, Mahaprasad in the form of a vegetarian lunch was partaken by the those in attendance, along with their families. The weekend of the 3rd & 4th of January marked the Akhanda Ramayana event by recitation of verses from the Sri Ramacharitamanas of Sri Goswami Tulsidas.



**New Year's Day**



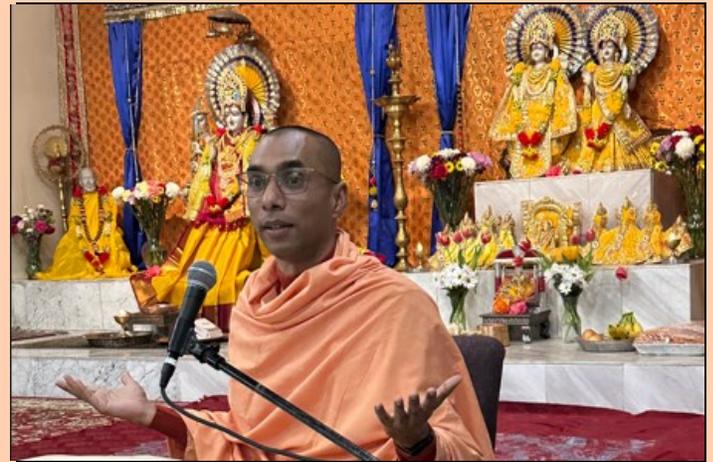
***Akhana Kamayana***

Sunday, January 11th hosted Kirtan by Sargam Shah. This was followed by a talk by Dr. Irene Plunkett on the topic of “Women’s Spirituality Prospective – Facing Current Racial Tensions”. Sunday the 18th marked the Srimad Swami Vivekananda Jayanti celebrations. Beginning with Kirtan by Divya Ramesh and students, the program continued with a talk by Swami Ishadhyanananda (Assistant Minister of the Vedanta Society of Sacramento) on the topic of “Swami Vivekananda’s Visit to Bay Area”. He recounted memorable moments from Swami Vivekananda’s visit, drawing relevance to today’s day and age. On Sunday the 25th, Sri Saraswati Puja was organized by Sima Chakrabarti, Director of the Nataraj school of dance, San Leandro, California.



***Vivekananda Jayanti-Kirtan***

February 1st marked the Sri Haridasa Day. This is a much awaited day for the devotees of the Ashrama. Sri Haridasa is regarded as one of the prominent proponents of the Bhakti movement in India. Events to celebrate Sri Haridasa are marked by musical programs. Every year, Badarikashrama’s celebration of this day witnesses several of the prominent music schools performing at the mandir. This year the program began at 11 AM, with a Carnatic music concert



***Swami Ishadhyanananda Maharaj***

by students of Smt. Shakuntala Murthy. As Smt. Murthy was travelling, she could not join her students on stage. The next program was a Carnatic music performance by students of Smt. Jayashree Varadarajan, Founder/Director of the Sri Rama Lalitha Kala Mandir School of Fine Arts. After a break for lunch from 1 PM to 1:30 PM, the celebrations continued with a Carnatic Music concert by Smt. Chandrika Pai and students. Smt. Pai is the Founder / Director of the Nada Sudha School of Music. The next performance was by Smt. Susheela Narasimhan and students, who rendered several pieces of classical music in the Carnatic form. Smt. Narasimhan is a prominent teacher of Carnatic music in the Bay Area.

The final performance of the day was a performance by Smt. Padmaja Kishore and students. The group rendered several Carnatic musical compositions. The reader may have noticed that past issues of this Sandesha Newsletter has commented on the highlights of the performance of each Music School. This issue has refrained from commenting, as Music Schools excelled each other, making it a challenge for the author to comment!

Maha Shivratri was celebrated on Sunday, the 5th of February. Rudrabhishek was from 5 PM to 7 PM, accompanied with Kirtan by Sargam Shah. Devotees and their families offered milk to the Shivling during



***Maha Shivaratri Kirtan***

the Rudrabhishek. After this was a series of Shiva Bhajans by various groups of devotees, going through midnight. First was the Vasundhara Choir, comprising Smt. Rita Sahai and students. Following this was Smt. Illora Jha. The final group for the evening was Bharati Bhakta and friends. Just past midnight, Shiva Archana and Maha Mangal Aarti was performed, with many of the devotees waiting to perform the Aarti. It must be noted that all the devotees and the Bhajan Groups made sure to attend the Maha Shivrathri Celebrations punctually, in spite of the heavy rains experienced that evening.



***Swamiji with Swami VedanandaJi Maharaj and Swami JnanasudhanandaJi Maharaj***

The final event for the month of February was the Sri Ramakrishna Jayanthi Celebrations, on Sunday, 22nd. The program began at 10:10 AM, with Kirtan by Sumita Chakraborty and students of the Suranjali School of Music. Following this was a performance of Sri Ramakrishna Bhajan, by Shreeya Prashant. The final event of the day was a talk by Swami Tattwamayana Maharaj from the Vedanta Society of San Francisco, on the topic of "Sri Ramakrishna and His Message".

Badarikashrama thus continues in its journey of providing selfless service to humanity. You may be aware that we are intending to grow into a new premises: You are invited to enquire with the office



***Sri Ramakrishna Jayanthi Swamiji with Swami Tattwamayana Maharaj***

## Calendar of Events March & April 2026

<u>Mar</u>	Timings	Upcoming Programs
Sun 1st	11 AM	Sri Satyanarayana Puja and Kirtan
Sun 8th	11 AM	<b>Sri Bhagavad Gita</b>
Sun 15th	11 AM	Sri Ramanama Sankirtana and Meditation
Thu 19th	11 AM	Chandra Mana Yugadi (Rudrabhishek)
Sat 21st	6 PM	Mata Ki Chowki
Sun 22nd	10:30 AM	Sri Durga Homa
Thu 26th	5:30 PM	<b>Sri Rama Navami Puja</b> and Kritan by Devotees
Sun 29th	11 AM	Sri Ramayana talk by Nripen Acharya
<u>Apr</u>		
Sat 4th	9 AM - 6 PM	<b>Hanuman Jayanti Celebration</b> - Recitation of the Hanuman Chalisa 108 times
Sun 5th	11 AM	Sri Satyanarayan Puja and Kritan
Sat 11th Sun 12th	9 AM - 6 PM	<b>Sri Ram Navami Music Festival</b> - Concerts and performances by Bay Area Carnatic Music Schools
Sun 19th	11 AM	<b>Sri Shankaracharya Jayanti</b> - Talk by Subita Sudarshana
Sun 26th	11 AM	<b>Sri Ramanuja Jayanti</b> - Talk by Prashant Bhadari
<u>May</u>		
Sun 3rd	11 AM	<b>Buddha Jayanti Celebration</b> - Talk by Dr. Arun Banerjee
Sun 10th	10:30 AM	<b>Sri Gayatri Homa - Mother's Day</b>

### Teachings of Sri Ramakrishna

*"God can be realized through all paths. All religions are true. The important thing is to reach the roof. You can reach it by stone stairs or by bamboo steps or by a rope."*

*"When the flower blooms, the bees come of their own accord. So let the flower of your devotion bloom, and the Lord will come."*

### Badarikashrama Next Gen. Project

*Expanding into the future for the Next Generation*

**Goal:** Expand our San Leandro Center to a larger facility. Key features include

- Prarthana Mandir • Large Parking Lot • Cultural Center • Dinning Facilities • Residential Quarters

**How to make tax-deductible donation**

Zelle, Venmo, Cash, Checks, Paypal and Employer Matching Funds

Checks can be made to "Badarikashrama". On the "For" line, please write "Next Gen Project".

### Badarikashrama, USA Center

Badarik@pacbell.net 510-278-2444

### Daily Schedule at San Leandro

Temple is open between the hours of 8am to 12 noon and 5pm to 7:30pm

**Temple is Closed Every Thursday**

Evening aarati daily- 6.30pm

Mondays 6:30 pm: Sri Siva Puja & Aarti

Tuesdays 6:30 pm: Sri Durga Puja & Aarti

Poornima Sri Satyanarayana Puja every fullmoon