

JUNE 15, 1926 - APRIL 22, 1994 HIS HOLINESS ACHARYA SUSHIL KUMARJI MAHARAJ

"If tomorrow will come, then it will come with nonviolence. Without nonviolence there will be no future of this world"Acharya Sushil Kumarji Maharaj

ACHARYA SHRI GURUDEVAYA NAMAH - Naresh, Sarla and Achal Jain



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Of

Lord Mahavir

By

International Jain Sangh And to Commemorate His Teachings We pray for a World full of Ahimsa, Peace and Harmony



Sanjay Jain VP – JPMorganChase Heather JainDr. Anupama Jain, Ph.D.Associate-Mary Zlot & AssociatesAsst. Prof., Union College, NY

And

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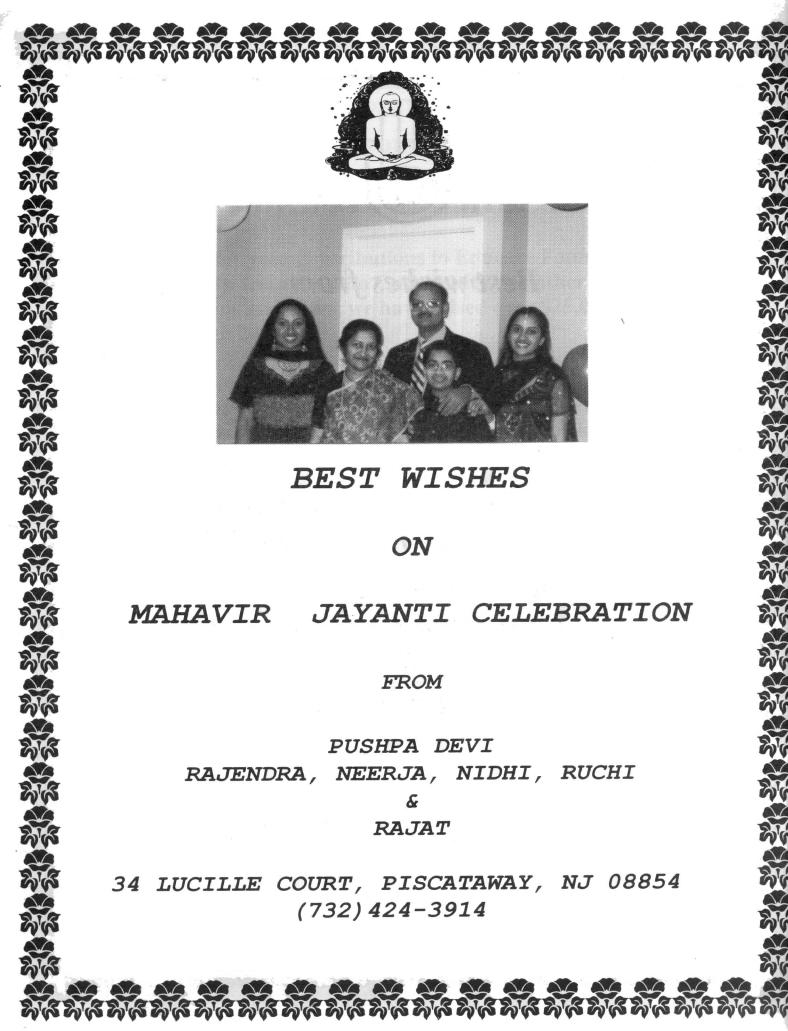


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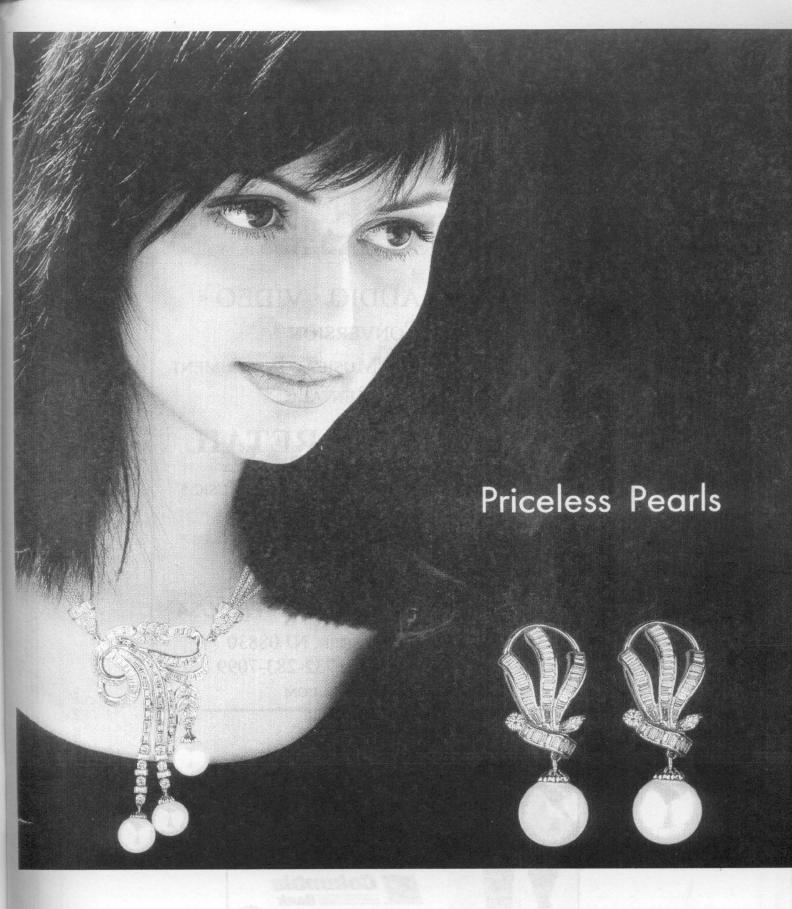
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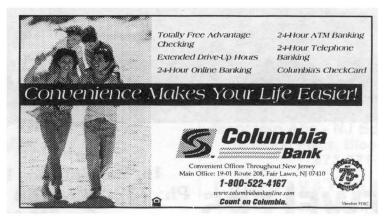
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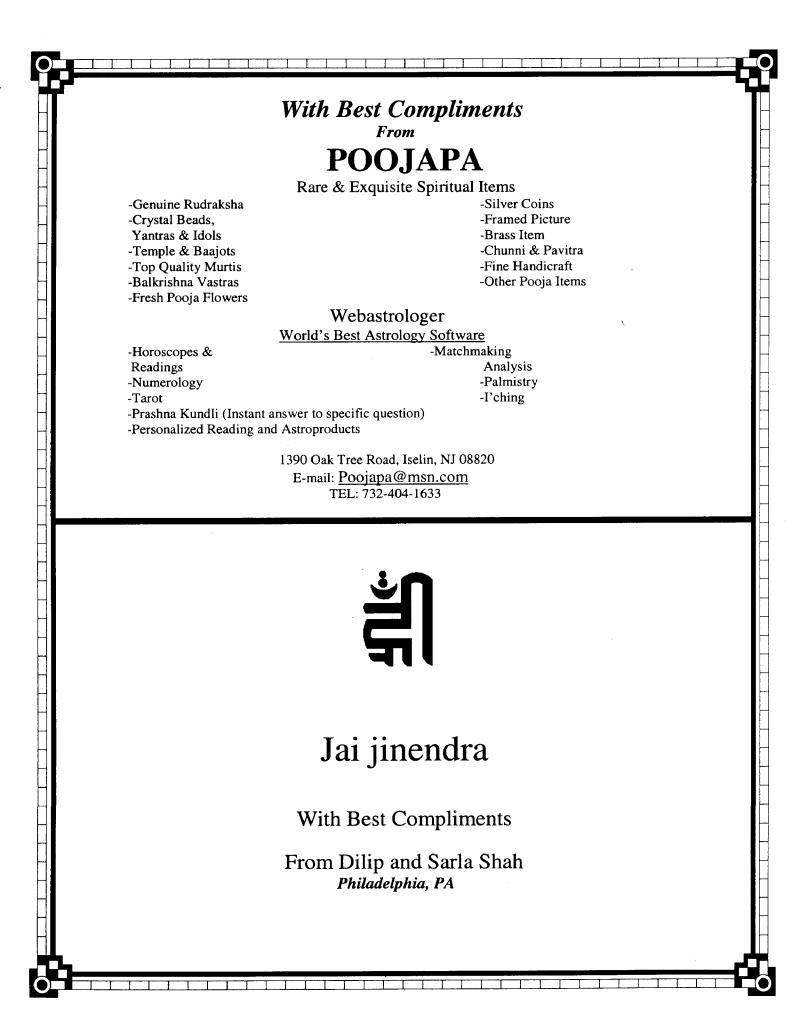
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Best wishes on Mahavir Jayanti 2601 From Umesh, Sheela, Amit, and Seema Compliments of: **Dunkin Donuts** 50 Union Avenue New Haven CT 06519 UChaudhari@aol.com

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"Respect for all living beings is nonviolence." ----Mahavir

"I am endeavouring to see God through service of humanity, for I know that God is neither in 'heaven, nor down below, but in every one." ----Mohandas K. Gandhi

"Jain's conduct in day-to-day living should be Just, Affectionate, Inclusive and nonviolent." ----International Jain Sangh

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International Jain Sangh (IJS)

Cover picture: Neera Malik, Artist,

The International Jain Sangh, it's editors and volunteers not necessarily agree with the views expressed in various articles, and they do not take responsibility for the statements made by these authors.

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JAINISM: An Overview

ORIGIN: Jain comes from a Sanskrit word Jina that means conqueror. It implies conquest over one's inner enemies or passions - anger greed, ego, and deceit. In it's present form, Jainism begins with Lord Mahavir (599-522 BC), a born prince who took ascetic life at the age of 30 and revived the pre-established discipline. His status is the 24th Tirthankar, the last revealer of Jain tradition.

GOAL: The primary goal of Jainism is the complete perfection and purification of soul. The principle governing the successions of life is karma. The total freedom from the ceaseless cycles of birth, life, pain, misery, and death can be achieved through the willed elimination of the inner enemies.

PATH OF ATTAINMENT: Right knowledge, right perception and right conduct cultivated together lead to liberation. Right knowledge impels a person to proper action. Right perception leads to kindness, detachment and renunciation of inner enemies. Right conduct is a quality achieved gradually.

PRACTICE: The followers observe five disciplines as much as possible: Non-violence (Ahimsa) - Not to cause any harm to any living being Truthfulness (Satya) - To speak the harmless truth Non-stealing (Asteya) - To take only what is properly given Chastity (Brahmcharya) - Not to indulge in sensual pleasure Non-Possession (Aprigraha) - Detachment from people, places & material things

SACRED WRITINGS: The teachings of Mahavir form the basis of Jain scriptures, Agam Sutras. They teach reverence for all forms of life, austerity, and non-violence.

RELEVENCE IN TODAY'S LIFE: Jainism is a philosophy of living. Its teachings seem very relevant in this era of modern science.

Universal Love: Violence in thought precedes violent words or action. Absence of violence in thoughts, speech or actions leads to universal love or ahimsa. According to March 16, 1981 Time magazine, "But Jainism's pre-eminent discipline, ahimsa (non violence), deeply influenced Mahatma Gandhi and altered the course of Indian history".

Inclusiveness: Jainism places great emphasis on the principle of open-mindedness (Anekantvaad) and the relativity of truth (Syadvaad). The truth is relative to the perspective from which it is known, and the knowledge claims are tentative. This inclusiveness attitude leads to acceptance of others viewpoints, or to tolerance.

Interdependence: According to Jainism, all life is bound together by mutual support and interdependence (Parasparopgraho Jivanam). Life is viewed as a gift of togetherness accommodation, and assistance. This fundamental natural phenomenon of symbiosis or mutual dependence forms the basis of the modern day science of ecology.

NAMOKAR MANTRA

(A Jain Prayer)

NAMO ARIHANTANAM

Obeisance to the Arihantas - perfected souls - Godmen

NAMO SIDDHANAM

Obeisance to the Siddhas - Liberated bodiless souls

NAMO AAYARIYANAM

Obeisance to the Acharyas - heads of congregations

NAMO UVAJJHAYANAM

Obeisance to the Upadhyayas - ascetic teachers

NAMO LOE SAVVA SAHUNAM

Obeisance to the Sadhus - all ascetic aspirants

ESO PANCHA NAMOKARO SAVVA PAVAPANASNO MANGALANAM CHA SAVVESIM PADHMAM HAVAI MANGALAM

This five-fold obeisance mantraDestroys all demeritsAnd of all auspicious recitationsIt is the first and foremost

(I bow and seek inspiration from the perfected souls, liberated souls, heads of the religious orders, teachers of the scriptures; and all monks and nuns in the world. These five obeisances erase all sins. These are most auspicious to bring everyone happiness and bliss.)

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INTERNATIONAL JAIN SANGH

(Non-profit tax-exempt organization. Fed. ID 22-3655912) 42 Cotswold Circle, Ocean NJ 07712 Tel: (732) 493-0093 Fax: (201) 933-8299 Web: www.ijsonline.org

Mission Statement

To promote the teachings of Jainism by organizing spiritual, cultural, academic and charitable programs by following the principles of Ahimsa (nonviolence) and Anekaantvaad (multiplicity of views) dedicated to the community's needs and committed to honoring all sects and religions and maintaining alliances and cooperation with other institutions of similar aims and objectives.

Programs

After the tragic events of September 11, 2001, people are more curious about learning other traditions so that they can understand each other and hope for a better future. The general IJS approach is to structure the programs to include philosophy of Jainism; observance of main festivals; interfaith and compassion activities, where family members of three generations can participate together to enhance their quality of life, and continue their heritage.

Since obtaining tax exemption status in August 1999, Mahavir Jayanti; 18 day observation of Paryushan and Duslaxan; and Diwali celebration have become annual programs. Youth programs have included workshops, essay competition and devotional performing arts. IJS has participated in several panel discussions outside of Jain community and reciprocated invitations. Monks and scholars of all sects are invited. IJS is developing working relationship with several Jain and other institutions in USA and abroad. We are increasingly including training, volunteer work, and interfaith programs. Many of our programs have been featured in newspapers, magazines and radio stations in USA, UK and India.

Please review the listing of programs IJS has conducted during 2001. We need your continued support to do more for you and your family for peaceful and prosperous living in multi-cultural society. We sincerely thank you for your patronage.

INTERNATIONAL JAIN SANGH, INC. (Non-profit tax-exempt organization. Fed. ID 22-3655912) 42 Cotswold Circle, Ocean, NJ 07712 Tel: (732) 493-0093

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Please Print) Date: I hereby apply for membership in International Jain Sangh: Last Name: _____ First Name_____ Family member's names: _____ _____ Address: _____

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E-MAIL: Enclosed are the membership dues for the current calendar year _____: [] \$25.00 Annual membership [] \$251.00 Life membership Signature Ň ------[] I would like to volunteer in the following capacity: Comments & Suggestions:

INTERNATIONAL JAIN SANGH (IJS)

An Overview of Programs during 2001

1. April 8	Mahavir Jayanti celebrations at the Knights of Columbus Hall, South River, NJ, attended by the U. S. Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr., Jain nuns and members of various faiths. Three hundred children along with their parents took a pledge for Nonviolence and Tolerance. The program dedicated to the victims of Gujarat earthquake was broadcasted live on RBC Radio for the benefit of tristate area residents and widely covered by south Asian media.	
2. April 25	The 2600 Birth Anniversary of Lord Mahavir commemorated in the Congressional Record.	
3. April 29	y of the Congressional Record received from Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. at his New wick office.	
4. May 27	Ongoing participation in the organizing committee for Ahimsa Varsh Celebration by Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan.	
5. June 27/Jul.1	Meetings with Jain Organizations in India to explore partnerships with Acharya Shiv Muniji's Sangh and with Vishva Ahimsa Sangh.	
6. July 6-9	Exhibition Booths for International Jain Sangh and Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan at JAINA Convention in Chicago	
7. Aug.15-Sep.1	Eighteen day Paryushan and Dulaxan and concurrent children programs in the holy presence of monks, nuns & scholars from diff. sects including Amrender Muniji, Sadhvi Subhamji, Samani Mangal Pragyaji and Vinit Pragyaji, and youth scholar Prakash Jain.	
8. Sept. 13	Participation in the interfaith service at St. Bartholomew's Church in Manhattan attended by the U. N. Secretary General Mr. Kofi Annan, two days after the Sept. 11 tragedy.	
9. Sept. 30	Participation in the interfaith panel discussion 'Religion as Social Inspiration' at the American Museum of Natural History, New York City.	
10. Nov. 9-11	Participation in the inauguration of the first Museum of World Religions in Taiwan, and the establishment of a Global Commission for Preservation of Sacred Sites worldwide. IJS is working on a plan to include Jainism in this museum.	
11. Nov. 17	Diwali celebrations dedicated to the victims of Gujarat earthquake and Sept. 11, including a prayer for world peace and collection of food and toys for the needy.	
12. Nov. 26	Skit on Namokar Mantra by children at the Unitarian Church, Lincroft, NJ.	
13. Nov. 27	Participation in the interfaith retreat on Immigration and Immigrant's Rights at Stoney Point Center, NY, organized by the Interfaith Center of New York.	
14. Dec. 7	A presentation on 'The Philosophy of Karma and Overview of Jainism" in the Theosophical Society in New Jersey, Red Bank Branch at the Eatontown Library.	
15. Dec 12	Donation of food and toys by Jain community children to the Family and Children Services of Monmouth County, NJ which helps over 350 needy families with 1200 children.	

"We should forgive and then forget what we have forgiven." ----- Mahavir

Congressional Record



COMMEMORATING THE 2600TH BIRTHDAY OF LORD MAHAVIR

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I come to the House floor today to praise the prime Minister of India, Mr. Vajpayee, in declaring this year as the year of nonviolence. April 6 commemorates the 2600th birthday of the greatest prophet of Jainism, Lord Mahavir.

Jainism is a beautiful religion originating in India over two millennia ago, built on the principles of nonviolence, working on the self, and realization of multiplicity of truth through our varying perspectives of life. Lord Mahavir worked tirelessly all his life until he reached Nirvana, and then embarked barefoot to spread his message of truth across the great nation of India.

Lord Mahavir practiced and preached environmental protection to safeguard trees, plants and animals for the living. The observation of the nonviolent practices of the Jainis was a major influence on the philosophy of the great Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi. The same principles of nonviolence and respect for life were practiced more recently by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in the United States, as he led the struggle for civil rights for all Americans.

Mahavir's principles are extremely important today as well. Mahavir or the great soul taught us liberation of soul by right knowledge, right faith and right conduct. We must all bring this into our lives to make this world a better place for our children and grand children.

April 6th marks the beginning of pioneering celebrations throughout the world for nonviolence, and thus I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the year 2001 as the year of nonviolence worldwide.

Reprinted from the Congressional Record Vol. 147, No. 53, Washington, Wednesday, April 25, 2001: Proceedings and debates of the 107th congress, First Session.

International Jain Sangh thanks the Honorable Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr., for his efforts to commemorate the 2600th Birth Anniversary of Lord Mahavir in the Congressional Record to spread his message of nonviolence worldwide.



Starting the Mahavir Jayanti program with a prayer were host Dr. Seema Jain and Samani Mangal Pragyaji.

Shirley Tepper chanting Namokar Mantra. From left:Prem Jain, host Sandeep Jain, Mary Van, Abs, Angela Wasson, Sharon Watson, Usha Jain, Jeanie Chevaliar-Goddard, Pat Bruno, Bawa Jain, US Congressman Frank Pallone, Arun Kothari, and Drs. Navin and Rashmi Mehta.

Mr. Bawa Jain (on right) receiving IJS Award of Excellence for 2001.

Children singing and having fun with baby Mahavir in the swing set.

A play exemplifying respect for all living beings and environmental protection.

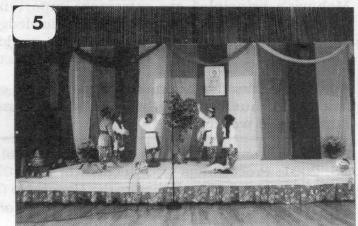
The rare Mahavir coin of 1616 AD gifted by Dilip Shah now in the collection of Ashok Jain.











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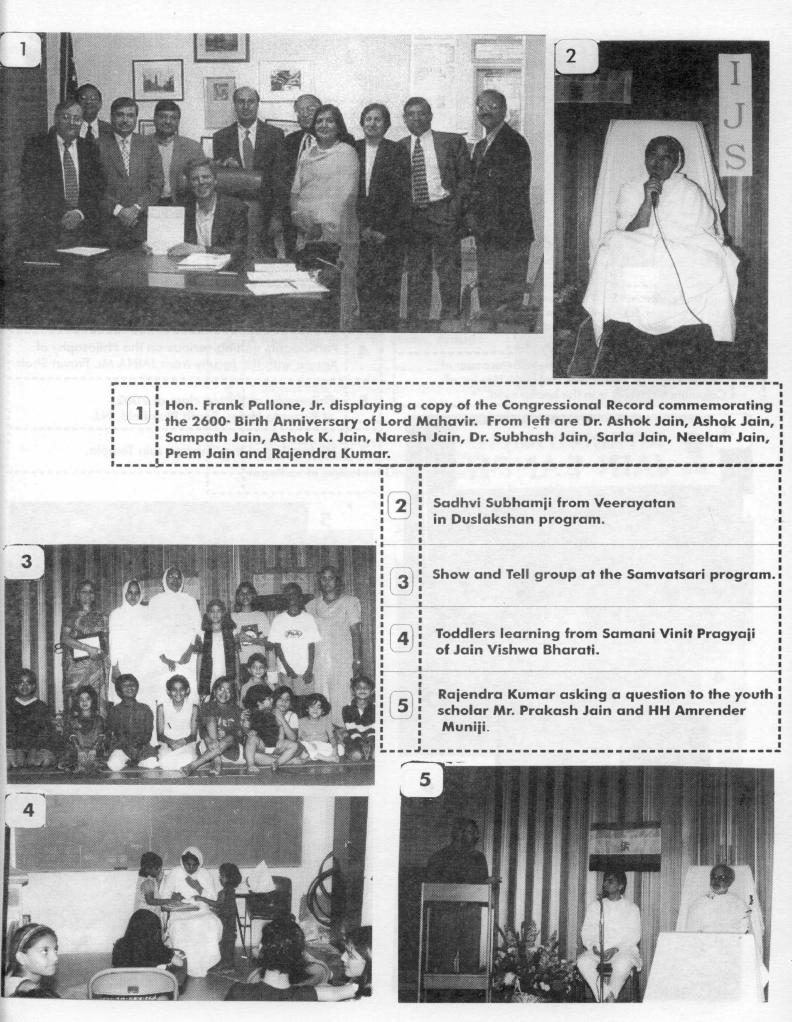
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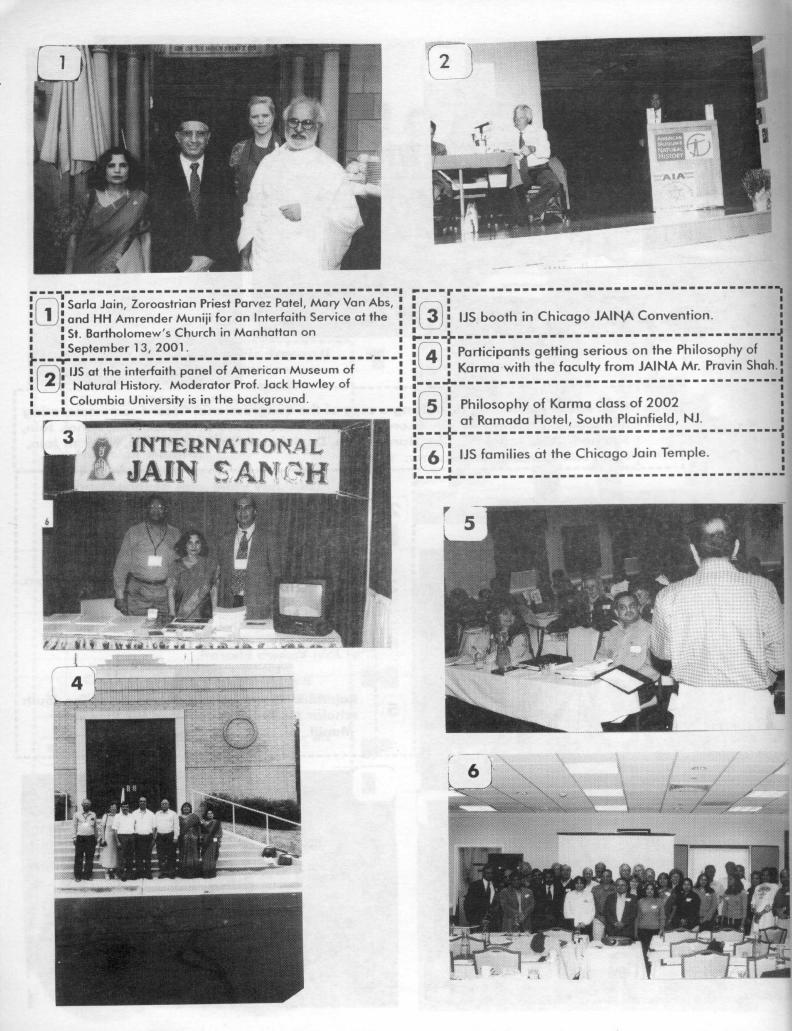
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(1)	Dr. Dhiraj Shah with an exemplary record of human efforts, received JAIN RATNA award from the Prime Minister of India.	
2	Surprise appearance of HH Amrender Muniji to pray for World Peace in the post September 11 IJS Diwali Program dedicated to the victims of the Gujarat Earth Quake and World Trade Center tragedies.	A JAIN SAN
3	Arham, Priya, Neil, Avni and Rohit displaying their national spirit.	
	A friendship dance by Nitika, Anishi and Payal.	
5	Colorful cast of Diwali cultural program.	
6	Host Poonam Garg with Sarla, Neerja, Neelam, Kavita, and Sunita laughing together to entertain Diwali audience.	Rockefeller Center of John Rockefeller Center of - etc Amender Manipimol A fo church prior to the service
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POST SEPTEMBER 11 AND JAINISM

- Naresh Jain

Outside my office window, the sky on September 11, 2001, was clear blue and beautiful. Shortly before 9 AM, I was checking my e-mail. Don in my office suddenly appeared to inform that a plane had crashed into the World Trade Center. I fast-walked 120 feet to the other side of my floor. I was thinking that I may see a few floors fallen down similar to a couple of top floors of the famous Kutub Minar in New Delhi which I gazed in my teenage years from my dorm room on the fourth floor. In the next two hours, I saw the second tower hit and collapse. I could not believe how the perpetrators could sink below any level of thinkable degeneracy and cause the deaths of thousands of people. Since then Sept. 11 has become a new word with a new meaning.

On September 13, Lincoln Tunnel opened and I drove from New Jersey into Manhattan to attend an Interfaith Service held at St. Bartholomew's Church near Rockefeller Center. I felt comfort in the company of my wife Sarla, HH Amrender Muniji and a friend Mary Van Abs. In the religious procession at the church prior to the service, a priest spotted my coat pin of a raised palm- a symbol of Jainism. He asked, "Are you a Jain?". I replied, "Yes sir". In a humble voice he said, "This is the time for Mahavir". I replied, "It sure is". The service included prayers for world peace from several religions including Jainism. The UN Secretary General Mr. Kofi Annan spoke of a shared faith binding us to understand each other and to live in peace. What he spoke was Jainism to me-Parasparopgraho Jivanam (i.e., all life is bound together with mutual support and assistance).

In the 20th century we just concluded, several historical social changes were achieved in several countries through heroic adaptation of nonviolence by leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. martin Luther King, Jr., Nelson Mandela and Lech Walesa. I thought that these heroes had proved that nonviolence is an active process and more powerful than hatred. But, after Sept. 11 suddenly, I felt ignorant again, back to square one.

In the weeks and months that followed, the thirst for knowledge took a different direction. People wanted to know more about Islam and other religions. Now they question everything around them: America's place in the world, the perception of evil, the assumptions of different religions, and the relevancy of religion itself. Now people want a life where they understand each other and where there is hope for a better future.

After Sept. 11, I have participated in several panel discussions. At the panel discussion 'Religion as Social Inspiration', on September 30, 2001, in the American Museum of Natural History, I briefly reviewed the basic teachings of Jainism, 'Ahimsa Parmo Dharma' or nonviolence is supreme religion. As nondarkness would mean light all around, nonviolence would mean love all around. The principle of 'Anekantvaad' or open-mindedness will make us more tolerant and respectful to others. The follow-up questions reflected a craving for the better understanding of the nonviolence principle. Observations were similar in the subsequent visits to the opening ceremonies of the World Museum of Religions in Taiwan, and talks at the Theosophical Society in New Jersey, and in the Surya Theosophical Study Group. During conversations with friends around the country, I gathered that after Sept. 11, Jain Center of Central Ohio had organized a Jain prayer and a tribute for the philosophy of Ahimsa in the Ohio Senate. Dr. Sushil Jain, Dr. Manoj Dharamsi, and Mr. Kanubhai Doshi in Washington metro area had participated in the memorial prayer at the Washington national Cathedral, in a CNN interview regarding Jain community reaction, and in several prayers for world peace and lectures in churches, mosques, interfaith, city, county and college gatherings. Mr. Pravin Shah had participated in similar programs in North Carolina. People are now more curious about exploring alternatives which could give more hope and better understanding.

Only two out of every 1000 people on this earth Jains, but their message is strong. A better understanding of the principle of nonviolence and respect for life will increasingly move the society toward a culture of peace and justice. The following of the teachings of Lord Mahavir would lead to the virtues such as tolerance, peace, respect, and harmonious relations; as well as care of our earth. These ethics can potentially avoid enormous funds that are spent on security, defense and environmental cleanups which can then be utilized for the welfare of the less fortunate world-wide. If we seize the moment and band together to foster the understanding of the philosophy of nonviolence- a gift of Jainism to make this world a better place for our children and grand children, then truly, this is the time for Mahavir.

"I have nothing new to teach the world. Truth and nonviolence are as old as the hills. All I have done is to try experiments in both on as vast scale as I could." -----Mohandas K. Gandhi

MAHAVIR JAYANTI PROGRAM

Knights of Columbus Hall, 88 Jackson St., South River, NJ 08882

SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2002 Program Coordinators: Dr. Ashok Jain & Mr. Rajendra Kumar. Hosts: Dr. Seema Jain and Mrs. Anita Kothari

- 10:30-11:15 **Mahavir Swami Puja** Prem Jain, Lata Dosi and Shri Jain Worship and prayer to Lord Mahavir
- 11:30-12:30 Welcome International Jain Sangh (IJS)

Pravachan (Spiritual lecture) – Samani Pratibha Pragyaji and Jagat Pragyaji. Samanijis are disciples of Acharya Mahapragyaji. Pratibha Pragyaji was initiated in 1989. She is MA in Jainology and speaks six languages including Pali and Prakrit. She has presented papers at several international conferences and teaches in the Jain Vishva Bharati Institute. Samani Jagat Pragyaji was initiated nine years ago. She is MA in Jain Philosophy and a melodious singer. She is currently assigned to Jain Vishva Bharati Preksha Center, Houston, Texas.

Pledge for Mutual Respect and Nonviolence

The community members take a pledge to be respectful to others, and to become nonviolent and peaceful persons as best as they can on this auspicious occasion.

IJS Award of Excellence

The Award of Excellence for the year 2002 to Dr. Dhiraj H. Shah of Buffalo, New York, recognizes his leadership for promoting the principles of Jainism worldwide through humanitarian efforts. He is acting chairman of JAINA charitable Trust and former President of JAINA. He has been instrumental to help thousands of affected people during tragedies such as earthquakes in Uttarkashi (U.P.), Maharastra, Gujarat and Northridge (CA); Orissa cyclone; Mississippi river flood; refugees in Rawanda and Kosovo; etc. He coordinated the project of Mahavir Gram village with 68 houses and a school completed in Orissa in 2001 for JAINA, and is currently working on the Vardhman Nagar project with 250 houses under construction in Gujarat. He regularly conducts medical camps in India and has donated medical equipment and computers to several hospitals and schools. In April 2001, he was among the 26 prominent Jains worldwide awarded JAIN RATNA by the Prime Minister of India.

Pravachan (Spiritual Lecture) - HH Amrender Muniji Maharaj

He is a disciple of late Acharya Sushil Kumarji Maharaj, the first monk to preach and travel outside of India. He visits several countries every year, participates in interfaith programs, and preaches the values of nonviolence, peaceful co-existence and environmental protection. He regularly meets community leaders in an effort to influence their approach to reduce violence and increase compassion. He promotes yoga camps; medical camps, training and other activities, which give, hope to the less fortunate, especially women. He consoled several families who lost their loved ones in the Sept. 11 tragedy last year. He also visited Godhara in Gujarat after the recent communal violence.

Guest Speaker: Dr. P. Jayaraman

Dr. Jayaraman is a scholar, and a teacher of several Indian languages, scriptures and philosophy. He is the Executive Director of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, USA, since it's inception in 1981. He has numerous degrees including Ph.D., and D.Litt. and has to his credit more than 16 published books and several awards including Sahitya Vachaspati (Honorary Doctorate) from Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, Allahabad, and Sahitya Bhushan from Uttar Pradesh Hindi Academy, Lucknow. He promotes the values of nonviolence personally as well as through his institution.

12:30-2:00 Cultural Program

A series of 9 items including devotional songs, dances and skits, which describe the life and teachings of Lord Mahavir.

1. Bhagwan Mahavir

A poem recited by Priyanka Kothari describes the life and teachings of Lord Mahavir including mutual support and nonviolence.

2. In Search of Peace

This dance drama directed by Divya Jain is a story of a dancer in the court of a king who looses her peace of mind when she was replaced by another dancer. In search of peace, she meets a Jain guru and listens to the teachings of Jainism. Her enlightened mind puts her on the path of peace that leads her to liberation or nirvana. Swathi Mamidana in the role of dancer and Ishaan Jain as a Jain guru are accompanied by Snehal Darji, Puja Vijay Patel, Shaili Dixit, Sucheta Bose, Puja Patel, V. Akila, Yamini Bhandari, and Kota Vaishnavi. The Director Divya Jain is an accomplished Bharat Natyam dancer with a graduate degree in Bharat Natyam and several stage performances to her credit.

3. Spiritual Medicine

This skit in a small family setting directed by Anita Kothari describes the philosophy of karma through consequences of an unethical approach adopted by a young girl. Her life becomes relaxed when she frees herself from lying, cheating, greed and jealousy. Priyanka Kothari, Roshni Jain and Nupur Kothari play the role of family members.

4. Aye Mere Vatan Ke Logo

Nirali Vakhariya choreographs this dance dedicated to those brave young men who sacrifice their life to defend their nation. The dancers are Haili Shah, Seema Chaudhari, Karan Sumbali, Jason Sambali and Dipika Agrawal.

5. Chandanbala

This play depicts the strange and thrilling story of Chandanbala's life. She was born in a royal family with happy childhood and youth, and then later auctioned as a maid. Due to the jealousy of the owner's wife, her hair were cut; she was handcuffed and feet chained; and subjected to torture. She kept patience and did not blame anyone. One day Lord Mahavir came to her door and her sorrows ended. She became a nun and a leader for the welfare of females. Sumitra Kankariya directs the play written by Sunanda Jain. The actors are Slisha Kankariya, Rashmi Dugar, Kavika Daga, Harsh Daga, Swetha Jain, Sonal Dugar, Vishal Kothari, Mridul Bhandari, Kirti Nahar, Rajat Kumar, and Rashi Garg.

- 6. OM Mangalam and Sachche Dharam Ka Raasta Chanting of OM Mangalam is followed by a devotional song, which describes the paath of true religion Ahimsa as shown by Mahavir. Composed by Anita Jain, the singers are Avani Jain, Neil Vaish, Priya Jain, Arham Jain and Rohit Vaish.
- 7. Mahavir Jayanti Aayee, Utsav Khub Manayenge A girl is in joyous mood because it is Mahavir Jayanti time. She wishes to celebrate this occasion by obtaining more knowledge and doing good deeds. Seema Chaudhari performs this dance choreographed by Divya Jain.

8. Religious Symbols

The young children growing up in the multicultural society present a glimpse of the prayer, symbol and clothing of Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, and Sikh faiths. This beautiful item is directed by Sonia Jain and performed by Anshul Jain, Anchal Jain, Shriyans Gokhru, Suhani Gokhru, Ricki Jain, Karan Sumbali and Jason Sumbali.

- 9. Mahavir, Yoga, Health and Peace A brief historical background and practice of Arhum Yoga as taught by Late Acharya Sushil Kumarji Maharaj is presented by Pat Bruno aka Swami Padmananda, the founder of Pathway Yoga and Mary Van Abs, the New Jersey Director.
- 10. Prize Distribution
- 11. Vote of Thanks
- 12. Mangal Paath

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

Would you like to help?

International Jain Sangh (IJS) wishes committed Jains to participate in the Interfaith Programs to promote the teachings of Mahavir outside of Jain community during weekdays as well as weekends. The international level programs are generally held during daytime on weekdays.

A little commitment to represent IJS will go a long way to expand upon the teachings of Mahavir: Nonviolence (Ahimsa) and Open-mindedness (Anekantvad) so much needed in our world today. These two teachings together have a potential to solve many of the current problems. Your effort could help educate people to reduce tension.

To explore further, please contact any one of the IJS volunteers listed on the first page.



INTERNATIONAL JAIN SANGH

Pledge for Mutual Respect and Nonviolence

On this auspicious occasion of the birth anniversary celebration of Lord Mahavir, I ______ commit myself to become respectful, nonviolent and peaceful person as best as I can because I know that the world will be a better place because of my effort.

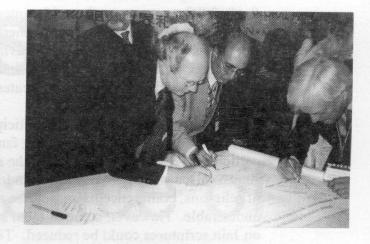
Therefore, from this day forward:

I will treat all living beings with respect and care. I will treat all human beings with respect, courtesy, and fairness; and I will avoid uncaring criticism, hateful words, and physical attacks. I will apologize and make amends when I have hurt another person. I know that we will grow in a peaceful and safe society when we honor the dignity of each and every person.

I will challenge myself to be truthful, and to reduce anger and greed. In my day-to-day life, I will also consider ethical implications before taking any action. I know that my individual choices and actions when combined with others will make a difference.

Jains at the Museum of World Religions in Taiwan





Founder of the Museum of World Religions, Dharam Master Hsin Tao with (from left) Naresh Jain, HH Amrender Muniji, Bawa Jain, Acharya Chandanaji and Sadhvi Shilapiji.

Naresh Jain of IJS signing a document in Taiwan to establish a Global Commission for Preservation of Sacred Sites worldwide.

The first museum of World Religions (MWR) was inaugurated in Taiwan on November 9, 2001 concluding a 10 year effort of Buddhist Monk Dharam Master Hsin Tao at a cost of \$60 Million to highlight the essence of all religions- Love and Peace.

HH Amrender Muniji from Siddhachalam along with four monks of other religions prayed for world peace in the inaugural session. The President of Taiwan, Mr. Bawa Jain and other world-renowned religious leaders and scholars cut the ribbon to declare the museum open. An international conference held during this event discussed the unfortunate destruction of sacred sites in Europe, India, Afghanistan, and elsewhere. Acharya Chandanaji and Sadhvi Shilapiji represented Veerayatan and Mr. Naresh Jain represented International Jain Sangh (IJS) of New Jersey at this three-day inaugural event that concluded by establishing a Global Commission for Preservation of Sacred Sites.

Chosen for their antiquity and the number of followers by the Center for the Study of World Religions at Harvard University, ten religions are included in the museum displays: Hinduism, Shinto, Judaism, Taoism, Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Sikhism, Ancient Egyptian, and Indigenous Maya religions. Jain representatives discussed the antiquity and the influence of Jainism with Hsin Tao who agreed to include it in the museum. IJS will formulate a list of appropriate items for display in its Great Hall of World Religions in concert with the museum staff, consultants, and the Jain community.

Philosophy of Karma and Overview of Jainism

The two day workshop was held in Hotel Ramada Limited, South Plainfield, NJ, on Feb 9 & 10, 2002, to warm up the cold winter weekend of 48 participants from 7 states in USA and from India; including men, women and youth from several ethnic backgrounds. The workshop was conducted by Mr. Pravin K. Shah, Chairperson, JAINA Executive Committee from North Carolina. It included significant reading material, slide presentations, Q/A sessions, certificates of participation and vegan meals.

Feedback was received from 23 participants. Several IJS officers, organizers and additional members of participating families excluded themselves from evaluations. The participants overwhelmingly liked the program structure, delivery, faculty, open and sincere discussions, philosophical understanding, karma and its application, comparison of religions, conference room, service and vegan food. None of the modules were undesirable. However, some of them suggested that the reading material and the details on Jain scriptures could be reduced. Time provided was generally felt to be sufficient, but several of them could spend one more day. Most of them learnt about this program from friends or IJS e-mail.

Regarding future IJS workshops, 43% prefer one day event while 30% are comfortable with two days. The preferred topics are history of Jainism, karma, comparison of religions, effect of ahimsa on modern life, basic Jainism & scriptures, applying Jainism to modern life, benefits of yoga/ meditation, penal discussion on Jainism as seen by other religions, and continuation of the present workshop itself. Regarding the program structure, some participants would like to see more time assigned to Q/A sessions, breakup into subgroups for discussions, and inclusion of some stretching/ meditation. Almost half the participants desire to volunteer in future programs.

IJS thanks everyone for spending a busy weekend with us and for valuable feedback. IJS will work on to organize more frequent workshops on suggested topics.

Ms. Chaitali Gala writes from California: Naresh Uncle, Thank you so much for putting together such a wonderful workshop. I really enjoyed the workshop and got to learn a tot. Thanks again! Sincerely, Chaitali

Mr. Dhruv Shah writes to Ari Jain from New Jersey: Dear Mr. Jain, I want to congratulate you for having organized a well informative seminar from Mr. Pravin Shah. Both my children Simki and Ripple Shah have informed me that they enjoyed the seminar thoroughly and learned a lot. The credit goes to the organizers like yourself and others. Other parents who could not attend or could not send their children have shown interest in attending future seminars. I would appreciate if you could inform me about future seminars. Thanks again. Regards, Dhruv Shah.

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LORD MAHAVIR

May 25, 2001

International Jain Sangh. Inc., 42 Cotswold Cir Ocen, NJ 07712

Jai Jinendra

On behalf of JAINA and World Community Services (WCS), I sincerely thank you for your donation of **\$2,100.00** towards **Gujarat Earthquake Relief Fund.** Your compassion and generosity truly touched my heart.

The strength of our organization depends on enthusiasm, faith and the participation.

Your generous contribution has enabled us to continue our services.

We will keep you informed by sending you project progress reports on a regular basis.

We are non profit, volunteer organization and you can rest assured that every penny of your donation will go towards the relief cause.

Thank you for your compassion and support.

Sincerely,

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Prakash Mehta Co- Chairman

AMERICAN MUSEUM & NATURAL HISTORY

October 8, 2001

Naresh Jain Vice President, International Jain Sangh 50 Maple Street Rutherford, NJ 07070

Dear Mr. Jain,

On behalf of the American Museum of Natural History's Department of Education, thank you for participating in *Reflections of Our Spirit*, a public program in conjunction with the Museum's exhibition *Meeting God: Elements of Hindu Devotion*. We have received a great deal of positive feedback from those who attended the program on Sunday September 30, 2001. Your participation in the **Religion as Social Inspiration** panel discussion was a vital part of our program's success, especially after the tragic events of September 11th. Hopefully we will be able to do more educational programs with you.

Please keep me informed of your activities, and if there is any way I can help, please contact me.

All the best,

Jeddy Joshikami Teddy Yoshikami

Teddy Yóshíkami Manager, Multicultural Programs Department of Education

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January 4, 2002

Neelam & Ashok Jain International Jain Sangh 42 Cotswold Circle Ocean, NJ 07712

Dear Friends:

On behalf of our "family" at Family & Children's Service, I would like to thank you for your participation in "Operation Sleighbells 2001", our holiday giving program. The toys and gifts donated by your group were greatly appreciated.

This year, thanks to your involvement and support, we were able to provide new clothes, toys, and food baskets to 350 families with over 1,200 children and to 60 homebound senior citizens.

Thank you again and have a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

Sincerely,

rda Attel

Linda Steel Director of Development



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January 18, 2002

Mr. Naresh Jain Vice President and Trustee International Jain Sangh 50 Maple Street Rutherford, NJ 07070

Dear Mr. Jain,

On behalf of the Surya Theosophical Study Group I would like to thank you and Dr. Ari Jain for coming to speak to the group last night.

The talk explaining the main tenets of the ancient Jain religion was wonderful and very informative. The ideas about karma were especially thought provoking and generated many good questions, which you answered in depth and completely.

Your warm knowledgeable presentation was greatly appreciated by all those present, hence how long we kept you after the presentation with more questions and comments! If any other questions arise I will contact you via e-mail with them, as you suggested.

I will also repeat the information you handed out regarding the conference on February 9 and 10 at the next meeting, and again in February. I personally am looking forward to it very much.

Thank you, and Dr. Jain, again,

Sincerely,

Judith Higgins Judith & Higgins ec: Dr. Ari Jain

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International Jain Sangh, 42 Cotswold Circle, Ocean, NJ 07712

Dated: March 9, 2002

Dear Friends:

Educare Foundation would like to thank International Jain Sangh and the Jain community for the support of our educational programs. We are proud to say that the financial support from the Jain community constitutes a very significant part of our funding.

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During the current school year 2001-02, we have awarded books, uniforms and educational scholarships to 300 poor deserving students in ten schools spread over nine states in India.

Sincerely,

ANJU JAIN

Anju Jain President

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YOU TOO CAN MAKE A DIFFRENCE!

-Dilip V. Shah

Have you ever wondered what good you can accomplish if only you had some free time? As a good person, you steadfastly believe that serving the poor is a supreme form of devotion, but the pursuit of American dream leaves no time for social work. Here is an inspiring story of a 22-year-old Niyati Sheth in Oklahoma.

A senior at University of Central Oklahoma majoring in Opera Performance/Premedicine she has been active in YJA as their Oklahoma City representative for six years. She is President of her music fraternity – Sigma Alpha Iota and performed abroad in countries such as Italy, England and Ireland with choir and chamber ensembles/ active in Presidential leadership council and Microbiological research. You get the picture.

Attending YJA and JAINA conventions she was very much influenced by Acharya shri Chandanaji and Sadhwi Shubhamji. Both her parents had been to the JAINA Pilgrimage of Samet Sikhar and other Tirhdhams of Bihar twice and told her stories of abject poverty and state of children in Bihar. At the JAINA convention in Chicago last July, she met Kirit Daftary, Chairman of the Tirthoddhar Committee who told her of the school and medical clinic his committee was helping to build in Lachhawar – Birth place of Lord Mahaveer at an estimated cost of \$90,000 under the guidance of Acharya Chandanaji.

Niyati decided to help. She set a goal of raising \$15,000. She planned a 2-day Yoga & Meditation workshop featuring H. H. Shree Amrender Muni for Mid October. Registration fee ranged from \$50 to \$100. But the September 11 tragedy forced cancellation of the camp and no future date was set. No one asked for a refund of the registration fee and she convinced others to contribute for her project. She raised \$4,100. In a town with only four Jain families this young girl, in spite of the obstacles created by the September 11 tragedy persevered, juggled her education, hobbies, family and social life to achieve a noble goal.

Drs. Pankaj and Avani Sheth are the proud parents of Niyati. They taught their daughter value of charity and service by example. Let us hope Niyati's example will inspire many others to act on their instinct to do good.

"Mere reading of holy books is of no avail unless the knowledge derived from them is translated into practice and used in shaping one's conduct in life." ----Mahavir

INTERNATIONAL JAIN SANGH SINCERELY THANKS

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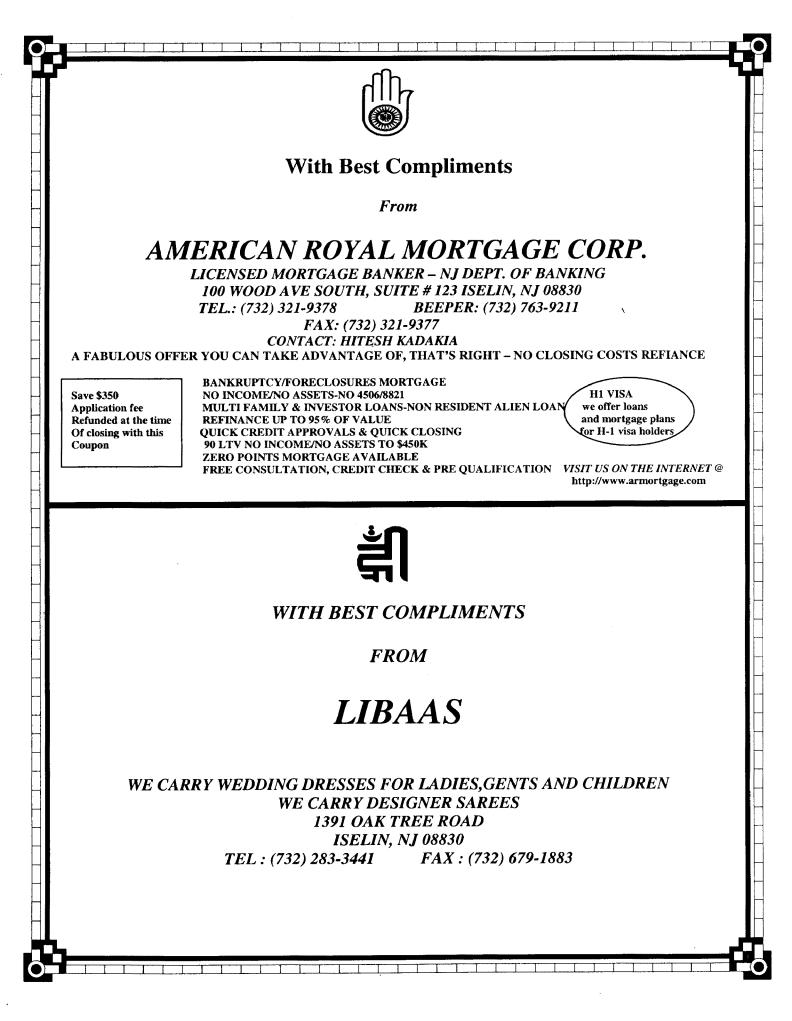
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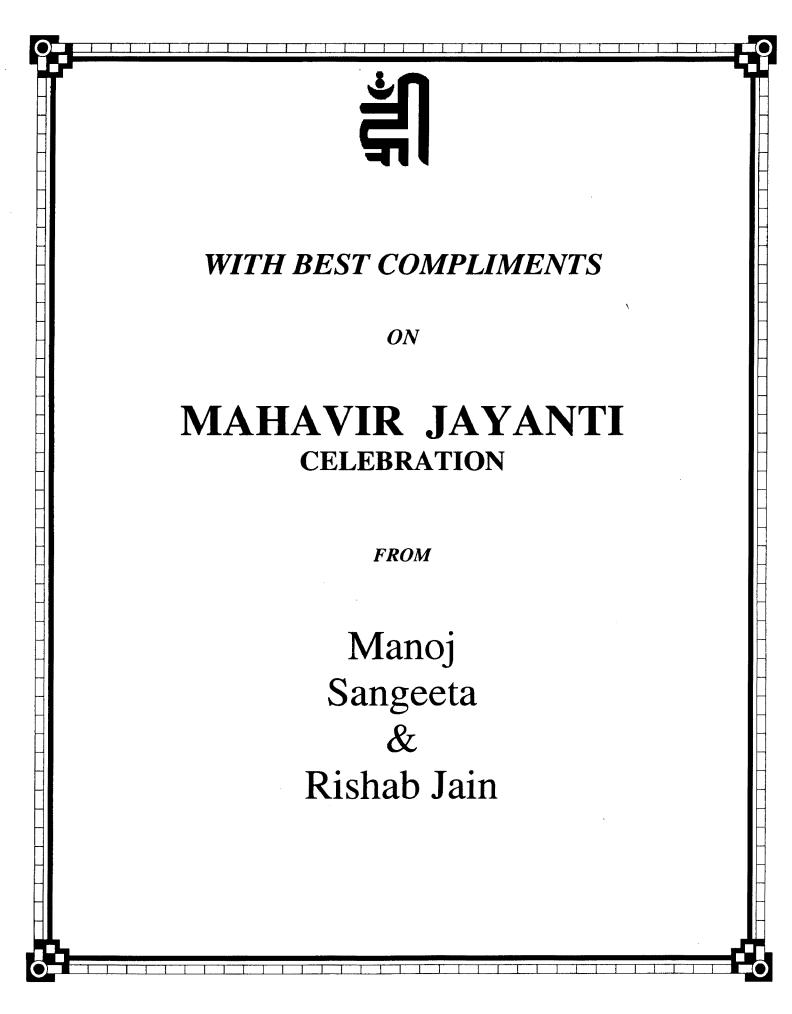
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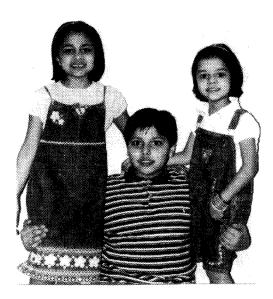
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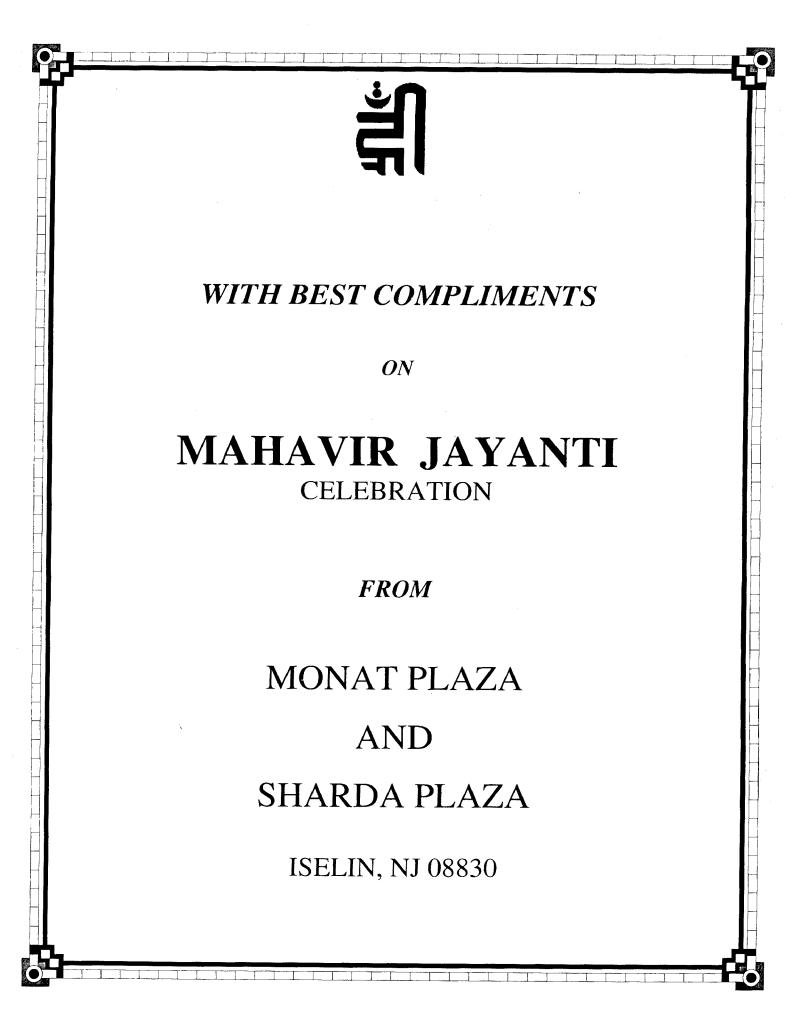
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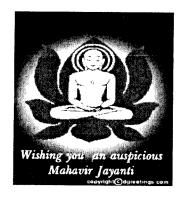
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Dr. Sanjay, Dr. Seema Shalabh and Shailee

26 Mallard Drive Hackettstown, NJ 07840

Jai Jinendra

"Jainism is nature in the purest and truest form. The mission of Jainism is the mission of nature, which is to work for the welfare of one and all, to rise from the pitfall of ignorance and inaction to the spiritual climax of infinite bliss and perfect knowledge. i.e. absolute freedom."



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