

दिल्ली नगर निगम
भगवान महावीर पार्क

MAHAVIR JAYANTI 2602

INTERNATIONAL JAIN SANGH

(732) 493-0093

www.ijsonline.org



WITH BEST COMPLIMENTS

NAVIN C. MEHTA

M.D., F.A.C.S., F.I.C.S., P.C.

DIPLOMATE: American Board of Otolaryngology

Fellow International College of Surgeons

Fellow Royal College of Surgeons

Fellow Royal Society of Medicine

EAR, NOSE & THROAT

HEAD & NECK SURGERY

FACIAL PLASTIC & RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY

CLINICAL PROFESSOR OF OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGY

NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE

SURGEON DIRECTOR

NEW YORK EYE & EAR INFIRMARY

“RUTHERFORD”

303 SECOND AVE., SUITE # 10

NEW YORK CITY, N.Y. 10003

PHONE: (212) 505-9640

FAX: (212) 473-1355

BEST COMPLIMENTS FROM:

DR. RASHMI MEHTA

SUNITI, NIRAV & SNEHA



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

***"Every religion has a common truth and one is not better than another, but to get to that truth, you must free yourself of the dogmas and rigid beliefs- it must be experienced."
.....Acharya Sushil Kumarji Maharaj***

With best compliments from Naresh, Sarla and Achal Jain



Jain Financial Services

42 Cotswold Circle

Ocean, NJ 07712

(732)-493-9537

(732)-493-9352(Fax)

Neelam Jain

Financial Consultant

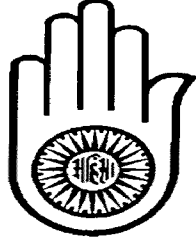
- **Insurance - Life, Health, Disability**
- **Visitor Health Insurance**
- **Long Term Care Insurance**
- **Retirement Planning**
- **IRAs - SIMPLE, SEP, Roth IRAs**
- **Education Planning**
- **Annuities**
- **Estate Planning**
- **Pension Plans-401K, Defined Benefit/Contribution**
- **Investments**

**Personalized strategies for risk management and wealth protection
for**

Individuals/Professionals/ businesses

We offer highest performing products that reduce risks and increase assets.

Please call for free consultation



WITH BEST COMPLIMENTS

ON

MAHAVIR JAYANTI

FROM

HOME LIVING

**For all your needs for Home Furniture
(Bedroom, Dining room and Living room)
Large selection of Dining room, living room & Bedroom**

MENLO PARK MALL

EDISON NJ 08837

(732) 205-1998

JERSEY GARDEN MALL

ELIZABETH NJ 07201

(908) 353-2442

FREEHOLD RACE WAY MALL

FREEHOLD, N.J.

(732) 761-0990

T.K & RENU JAIN

In loving memory of



**Late Smt. Suchrita Jain
1919-2003**

**Asha- Yogesh
Seema
Jyoti**

**Sudha-Prem
Heather-Sanjay
Anupama
732-382-8519**

**Sneh- Dinesh
Atul**

MORTGAGES/REFINANCE
CHINU J. SHAH – ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

973-202-3585 973-253-6066

FAX # 732-549-7003

WE HAVE THE LOWEST RATE IN THE INDUSTRY !!!

- NO APPLICATION FEE (RESIDENTIAL)
- NO POINTS LOAN AVAILABLE
- PURCHASE OR REFINANCE
- CREDIT PROBLEMS UNDERSTOOD
- DEBT CONSOLIDATION – RECENT BANKRUPTCY – O.K.
- NO INCOME / NO ASSET WITH ONLY 10 % DOWN
- NO COST REFINANCING ANYTIME AFTER CLOSING
- MIXED USED PROPERTIES / COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES
- JUMBO MORTGAGES AND CONSTRUCTION LOANS
- OUR S B A LENDER IS THE BEST IN THE INDUSTRY
-
- YOU WILL BE VERY HAPPY WITH OUR SERVICES
- BEST RATES AND BEST PERSONAL SERVICES GUARANTEED
- MOST OF THE BUSINESS IS THROUGH REFERRALS

WE CAN STRUCTURE YOUR LOAN ACCORDING TO YOUR NEED

GREATER NEW JERSEY
MORTGAGE CO.

Licensed Mortgage Bankers-NJ Dept. of Banking

1740 Oak Tree Road, EDISON NJ 08820

Space Donated by Anju and Pawan Jain

EDUCARE FOUNDATION INC.

BRINGING SMILES

Thank you for your contributions to Educare Foundation Inc. With the help from the Jain Community and other supporters of all religions and races, we have raised over \$35,000 from 1994 through 2002.

Your contributions have been used all over India to help with the education of poor and deserving children. More than 1,000 children were provided books, uniform's, alarm clocks, bicycles, partial or full fee scholarship, etc to ensure that their poverty did not force them to drop out of school. During the year 2002, eleven schools located in ten states in India benefited from the programs.

Please spread the word about the Educare Foundation work among your friends and relatives. Thank you for your generosity and we look forward to your continued support of education of the poor children in India. Their blessings are with you.

Visit us at www.educaresite.org

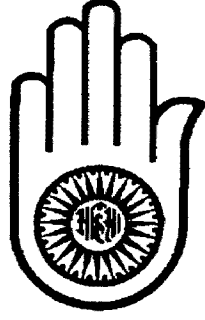
Educare Foundation Inc.

A U.S. Non Profit Organization, Tax Exempt No. 22-3613696

40 Woodmere Road, No. Brunswick, NJ 08902

E-mail: educaref@excite.com phone (201) 933-8963

*****GIVE EDUCATION *** MAKE A CHILD SELF RELIANT *****



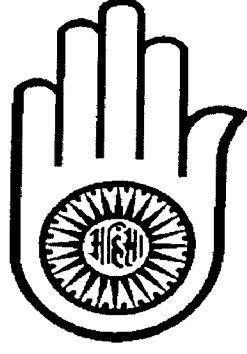
Best wishes from

Jain Family

*Dr. Subhash and Sarla Jain
Dr. Narpat and Archana Jain
Rupam and Sapna Jain
Sachin, Siddharth and Rishab*

Compliments from:
East Madison Dental, P.C.

*79 East Madison Avenue
Dumont, NJ 07628
Tel: (201) 501-8282
Fax: (201) 501-8380*



AhiNsa, Peace and Harmony.

With Blessings..

Acharya Shri Amerendra Muni Ji Maharaj

With Best Wishes and Compliments:

**Pushpa Devi,
Rajendra, Neerja,
Nidhi, Ruchi and Rajat
Surendra, Shephali, Samir and Amar**

**732-424-3914
34 Lucille Court, Piscataway, NJ 08854**



Best Wishes To

International Jain Sangh

Sampath and Dolores Jain
Shashi, Sandeep and Sunil



Compliments From:

Galaxy Tours and Travels

Established 1976
286 5th Avenue
New York, NY 10001
(212) 564-9611

Purificadora Glacial S. de R.L.

From the Estates of El Llano
Processors & Bottlers of Purified Drinking Water
Sabana Grande F.M., Honduras, C.A.
(504) 970-1453



International Jain Sangh

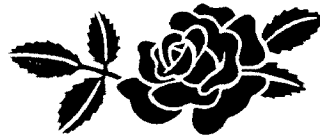
In Memoriam



Ashok Kumar Jain

March 22, 1950

December 27, 2002



2602nd MAHAVIR JAYANTI SOUVENIR

Editors:
Vinay Garg
Ashok Jain
Naresh Jain

Published by:
International Jain Sangh (IJS)
42 Cotswold Circle
Ocean, NJ 07712
(732) 493-0093
www.ijsonline.org
(IJS is a non profit
(tax exempt organization,
Federal ID # 22- 365912)

Cover: Mahavir Park,
Pitampura, Delhi, India
Photo by Naresh Jain

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.
the views expressed in various articles,
and they do not take responsibility for the
statements made by these authors.
the views expressed in various articles,
and they do not take responsibility for the
statements made by these authors.

CONTENTS:

Jainism and Meditation	2
Namokar Mantra	3
Overview of IJS Programs in 2002	4
Upcoming Events	6
War and Disarmament	7
2002 Events in Pictures	8
Jainism and Its Modern-Day Relevance	12
Mahavir Jayanti Program April 20, 2003	16
Pledge for Mutual Respect and Nonviolence	20
IJS Award of Excellence	21
IJS Meets the Press	22
Lachhwad On Our Mind	24
Jain Stamps Exhibition	25
Jain Conduct	26
Beyond Violence: Teachings of Jainism	27
Message from New York Governor Mr. Pataki	29
Message from Kirkridge Retreat & Study Center	30
IJS Sincerely Thanks	14,19

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

"Nonviolence requires double faith, faith in God and also faith in man ."
----Mohandas K. Gandhi

"AHIMSA is Avoidance of Harm Intended by Mind, Speech or Action."
----International Jain Sangh

Ashok/Neelam Jain (732) 493-0093 Jainneelam@hotmail.com
Prem Jain (732) 382-8519 jains298@estart.com

Naresh Jain (201) 933-8963 njain52253@aol.com
Rajendra Kumar (732) 424-3914 rajQmar@yahoo.c

Jainism and Meditation

by Jyotindra Doshi

"JINA" means victor: the individual who has conquered his passions of anger, pride, greed, hatred, and thoroughly achieved self realization. The followers of Jina are Jain. Jainism directs each individual, like you and me, how to make upward progress of our spirit, soul, and how to gain eternal happiness in our life.

There are five codes of conduct similar to the preaching of other religions:

- 1) Non-Violence (Ahimsa)
- 2) Truth (Satya)
- 3) Non- Stealing (Achauraya)
- 4) Purity of body and mind (Bramacharya)
- 5) Non-possessiveness (Aparigrah)

In our body there are five major power centers:

- 1) Center of Knowledge located on the top of the head.
- 2) Center of Perception located between the eyebrows.
- 3) Center of Purification located in the throat.
- 4) Center of Happiness located near the heart.
- 5) Center of Energy located in the navel area.

The process of mediation to control our mind and concentrate on the great qualities of our soul:

- 1) Breathing Technique: Exhale-Inhale nine times at each power center.
- 2) Sound Vibration: Creating 'OHM' or Navkarmantra.
- 3) Feel the flow of energy through different centers starting from the naval to the head.

- 4) Think about pure qualities of the soul. Think about a perfect, bodiless soul.

Think about these affirmations:

Perfect knowledge: I have power of knowledge.

Perfect vision: I have power of vision.

Eternal Happiness: I am eternal happiness.

Perfect Energy: I have energy.

Everlasting: I am everlasting.

- 5) Forgiveness:

KHAMEMI SAVVE JIVA (I forgive all living beings)

SAVVE JIVA KHAMANTU ME (I seek pardon from all living beings)

METTI ME SAVVE BHUYESU (I am friendly towards all living beings)

VERAM MAJJHAM NA KENAI (And seek enmity with none)

MICHHAMI DUKKADAM! (Forgive me for my ignorance!)

- 6) Self-Realization: I am pure soul. I am not body.

Concentrate on three spiritual jewels: Right Knowledge, Right Vision and Right Conduct. While meditating, exhale and inhale through the process, drawing our energy from the naval to head.

Concentrate on endless virtues and attributes of our soul.

The practice of meditation helps us to purify our mental state, to control our emotions of hatred, greed, etc., and feel eternal happiness and serenity.

(The author is a writer and speaker on Jainism. He has conducted meditation sessions and officiated in the Jain Society of Metropolitan Chicago).

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 mantra Destroys all demerits
And of all auspicious recitations It 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.)

INTERNATIONAL JAIN SANGH (IJS)

An Overview of Programs During 2002

1. Jan. 17 A presentation on 'The Philosophy of Karma and Overview of Jainism' in the Surya Theosophical Study Group, Westfield, New Jersey.
2. Feb. 9/10 Two day workshop on 'The Philosophy of Karma and Overview of Jainism' at the Hotel Ramada Limited, South Plainfield, NJ. The Workshop was conducted by Pravin K. Shah of JAINA and attended by 48 participants of various ethnic backgrounds from 7 states in USA and India.
3. Feb. 18 Attended the Interfaith Brotherhood-Sisterhood Breakfast of Bergen County held at Marriott Glen Pointe, Teaneck, NJ. Swami Agnivesh was the guest speaker.
4. March 3 Participation in the "Golden Rules of World Religions- Jainism" presented by the Jain community in the Corpus Christi Church, New York, NY.
5. March 7 Participation in the Buddhist - Muslim Dialogue at Columbia University- Department of Religions, New York, NY.
6. April 9 Attended the "Season Of Nonviolence" program at the United Nations, New York, NY. Program highlights were speeches by Arun Gandhi and Ila Gandhi grand children of Mahatma Gandhi, and Yolanda King daughter of Martin Luther King, Jr.
7. April 13/14 Participation in the "Year of Nonviolence" program by Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan USA (Institute of Indian Culture) at the Royal Albert's Palace, Fords, NJ.
8. April 28 Mahavir Jayanti celebrations at the Knights of Columbus Hall, South River, NJ, attended by the U. S. Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr., Jain monks & nuns and members of various faiths. Highlights were a Pledge for Mutual Respect and Nonviolence; presentation of Congressional Record commemorating the 2600th birth anniversary of Lord Mahavir; keynote address by Dr. P. Jayaraman of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan; IJS Award of Excellence to Dr. Dhiraj H. Shah of Buffalo, NY; and an exhibit of a rare collection of Jain Stamps and First Day Covers.
9. May 20 Presentation of a "Skit on Different Religions" at the Unitarian Universalist Center organized by the Monmouth Center of World Religions.
10. May 24-27 Participation in the JAINA Pathshala Teachers Conference at the Jain Center of Southern California (JCSC), LA. Presented a talk "Enhancing Jain Education from Interfaith Viewpoint"; exhibited the rare Jain Stamp Collection; and gifted a First Day Cover of Jain Symbol to JCSC which was issued by the Govt. of India to commemorate the 2600th birth anniversary of Lord Mahavir.
11. June 11 Presentation of a paper "Beyond Violence- Teachings of Jainism" and representation on the panel in the one day Interfaith dialogue at the Kirkridge Retreat and Study Center, Bangor, PA.
12. June 16 Presentation of "Overview of Jainism" in the Interreligious Dialogue and representation on the panel at the Taiwanese Buddhist Center, Lower Manhattan, New York.

13. June 17 Presentation of “Jainism and the Environment” in the Interfaith Reflection on Religion and the Environment program organized by the Monmouth Center of World Religions and Ethical Thoughts at St. Mary’s Church, Colts Neck, NJ.
14. July 4 Exhibition Booth of the rare collection of Stamps and First Day Covers at the Young Jains of America (YJA) Convention in New Jersey.
15. July 6 Participation in the program and the exhibit of rare collection of Jain Stamps and First Day Covers at the Jain Adhyatmic Association of North America, Texas (JAANA) Convention held in New Jersey.
16. Aug 23 Received letter from Mr. George Pataki, Governor of New York to foster the spirit of strength and unity needed to cope with the lingering pain of Sept. 11.
17. Sept. 3-20 Participation in the Paryushan and Duslaxan Program of Jain Vishwa Bharati of North America. Awarded JAINA Education CDs to the performing children.
18. Sept 4 Interview with South Bergenite, weekly newspaper from Bergen County, NJ. Significant coverage on Jainism in the Sept. 11 edition.
19. Sept. 11 Co-sponsored Interfaith Service at St. Bartholomew’s Church, New York City attended by the UN Secretary General Mr. Kofi Annan. Distributed flyers on Jainism specially prepared for Sept. 11.
20. Sept. 18 Meeting with Dharma Master Hsin Tao of the ‘Museum of World Religions’ in Taiwan. IJS proposal for inclusion of Jainism in the museum accepted.
21. Sept. 28 JAINA Executive Committee meeting at Siddhachalam. IJS approved as member of JAINA.
22. Nov. 13/14 Participation in the interfaith retreat with focus on Poverty in New York City organized by Interfaith Center of New York at Stony point Center, NY.
23. Nov. 23 Diwali celebration dedicated to the needy in New Jersey at the Jewish Community Center, Edison, NJ.
24. Nov. 24 Participation in the Interfaith Celebration “United We Sing” at the Monmouth Center of World Religions and Ethical Thought, Lincroft, NJ. “Enlightenment of Deadly Cobra” by Lord Mahavir- a skit by children.

***** Please donate ONE working day to attend an Interfaith Program and become an Ambassador of Peace. IJS will pay registration fee of first five participants in Interfaith Programs. *****

Upcoming Events

INTERFAITH CONFERENCE AT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY FROM APRIL 25-27, 2003

The first statewide catholic-sponsored interfaith conference entitled "A Vision for Environmental Justice: Caring for God's Creation" will be held in Princeton University during the weekend of April 25-27, 2003. On **Sunday, April 27, an Interfaith Prayer Service and a panel discussion** of "Interfaith Perspectives on the Environment" will feature **Islamic, Catholic, Jain, Protestant and Jewish** faith traditions. Presentation by **IJS** member. Fees are \$30 a day or \$80 for the whole weekend. (Includes lunch.) For further information **contact Naresh Jain**, Tel: (201) 933-8963, E-mail: NJain52253@aol.com or visit www.EnviroJustNJ.org (Sponsorship available.)

AHIMSA DIWAS (A DAY OF NONVIOLENCE) ON MAY 11, 2003, SUNDAY

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan has planned a **whole day event** at Haft Auditorium, Fashion Institute of Technology (7th Ave. at 27th Street) in Manhattan with a view to creating awareness about the relevance of the concept of nonviolence. **An Interfaith Seminar after lunch will feature Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism and Sikhism represented by their masters.** Cheer **IJS** groups. Meet Professor. Padmanabh Jaini. Pre Registration Fees \$25 a person or \$80 for a family of four up to April 30. (Includes light breakfast & boxed lunch). **Contact Bhavan** (212) 989-8383 or visit website www.bhavanus.com.

JAINISM AND WORLD RELIGIONS DURING WEEKEND OF MAY 17 & 18

International Jain Sangh has planned this seminar at **Ramada Limited Hotel, South Plainfield, NJ**, near Rutgers University. **Pravin K Shah** of **JAINA** Education Committee will conduct the program specially designed post September 11, event. It is supported by several interfaith organizations. First day will cover philosophy of Jainism and second day will compare similarities and differences among major religions. Prof. Magliola and other scholars are expected to join the discussions. It is a **MUST** for those **who communicate with people of other religions, inter-religious couples and their parents; or those who desire to learn about other religions.** Pre-registration is required. **Fee is \$10.** (Includes reading material; and vegetarian breakfast and lunch on both days.) **Contact Ari Jain** (732) 842- 5805 or **Naresh Jain** (201) 933-8963 or visit website www.ijsonline.org

.....

Classes for Arhum Yoga are now available at FitZone Health/Fitness & Sports Training Center in Bridgewater, NJ. Mary Van Abs, an IJS member, Pathway Yoga instructor and disciple of Acharya Sushil Kumarji Maharaj will conduct the Wednesday evening classes. Contact FitZone at (908) 704-8000.

.....

People make the difference. Let us do it together. Become a member of International Jain Sangh. Cherish your heritage and spread the teachings of Nonviolence. Godspeed.

WAR AND DISARMAMENT*

-Acharya Mahaprajna

The Lord was a source of the perennial stream of non-violence. To him all violence was unpardonable. His world was immaculate of the toxins of war, enmity and discord. An individual being inimical to another was inconceivable to him. In reply to the aggressive values pertaining in that era, ("You live in heaven posthumously, if you fall in the battlefield and enjoy the spoils of the conquest if you survivor.") His response was, "Aggression is infernal. Ye self! Fight with your (baser) counterpart. To what avail these external wars?"

A virtuous existence warrants such non-violent faith. No doubt, there are many who are not inspired by such ideals. There are myriads who place reliance on war, invasion and usurping another's right. They remain unmoved by the sermon of fighting with their own baser self. To such materially blessed beings, the Lord exhorted: "Be not aggressive. Retaliation is equally violent. Violence is succumbing to the external conditions of which we are essentially free.

A war waged as a retaliatory measure is equally demoniac. Such is the terminable chain of armament that one weapon is met with another. The successive weapons are still more devastating. To man is due an awareness of this fact and an abnegation of these temptations to effect a total disarmament. This is the way to peace and no other. If humanity chooses to opt for peace, it has got to subscribe to this ideology sooner or later.

(*Extracted from the book "Lord Mahavira" by Muni Nathmal, original name of the author, published by Adarsh Sahitya Sangh, Churu, Rajasthan, India in 1971. He is successor to Acharya Shri Tulsi of the religious order of the Jain Shwetambar Terapanth.

.....

"Adjustment is an art. Its practice is very difficult. Two people staying together and adjusting with each other is a telling sutra in mental peace. But differences in tastes, thinking and process of working breaks the chain of adjustments. Those people are artists who are able to look for compatibility within points of differences and thus keep the adjustment unhurt"

"Some people do not know how to resolve issues, they get entangled in them. What is the reason for this? Must be due to either some inferiority complex or short sightedness. There definitely is some reason. If there is alertness while doing our duty, problems are fewer. Sometimes one should rise above the need to work for self aggrandizement alone, and inspired by a feeling of responsibility, indulge in selfless work. This is an easy way to disentangle yourself in life.".... Acharya Mahaprajna

IJS 2002 EVENTS



Jainism and World Religions February 2002 seminar in high tech class room of Ramada Hotel, South Plainfield, NJ.



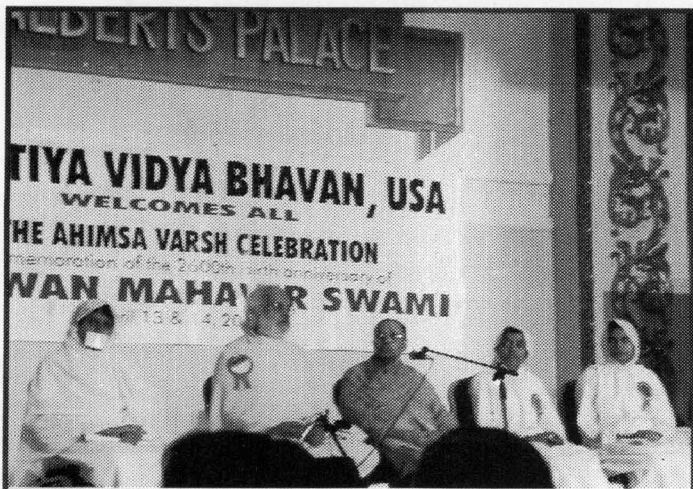
Celebrating the 'Season of Nonviolence' with HH Amrender Muniji and Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi.



Yolanda King, daughter of Martin Luther King, Jr., in light moments during the 'Season of Nonviolence'.



Prem Jain reciting in a prayer ceremony during Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's "Year of Nonviolence" Program along with Dr. L.M. Sighvi and Dr. Navin Mehta.



A galaxy of Jain monks and nuns at the 'Year of Nonviolence' program.



Organizers of the 'Year of Nonviolence' program at Royal Albert's Palace, Fords, NJ.

IJS 2002 EVENTS



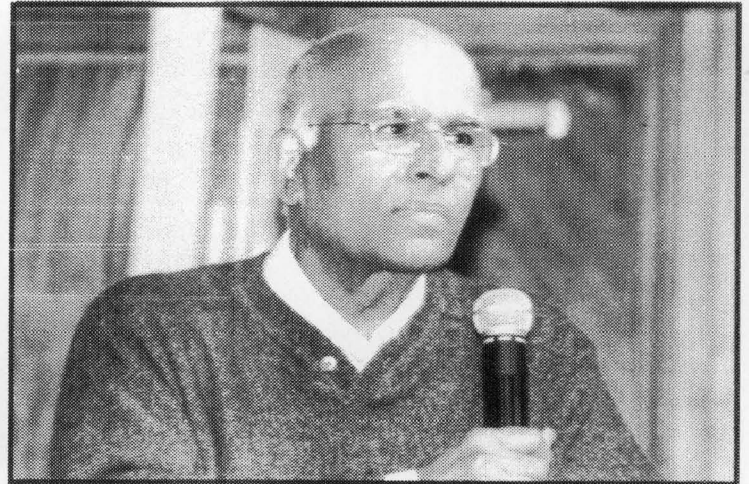
A group of devotees starting the Mahavir Jayanti program with worship and prayers.



US Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr., presenting a copy of the Congressional Record commemorating the 2600th Birth Anniversary of Lord Mahavir.



Dr. Dhiraj H. Shah of Buffalo, NY, receiving the IJS Award of Excellence for 2002 from Samanijis, HH Amrender Muniji and Dr. Jayaraman, Executive Director of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan.



Dr. Jayaraman delivering the Keynote Speech at Mahavir Jayanti celebrations.

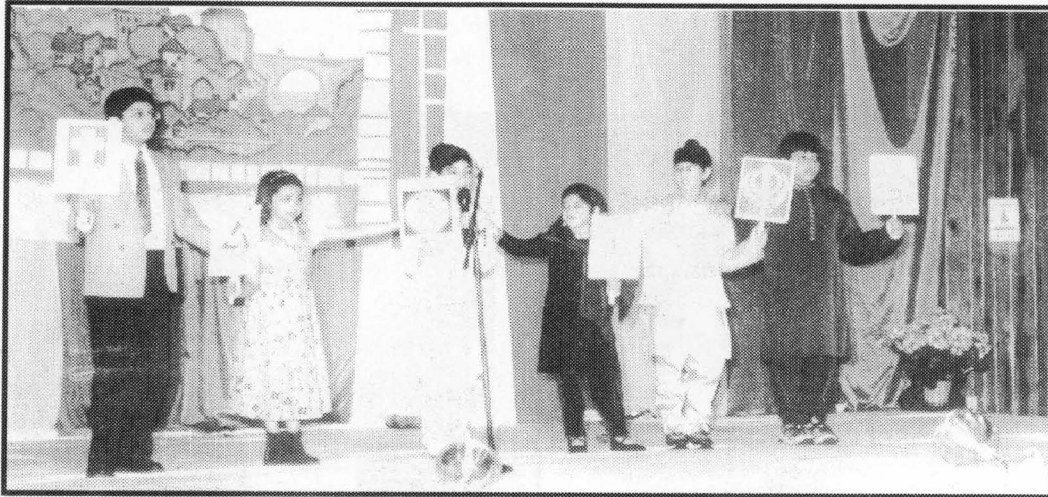


*Dedicated sponsors of IJS programs:
Dr. Seema Jain, Dr. Navin Mehta and Dr. Sanjay Jain*

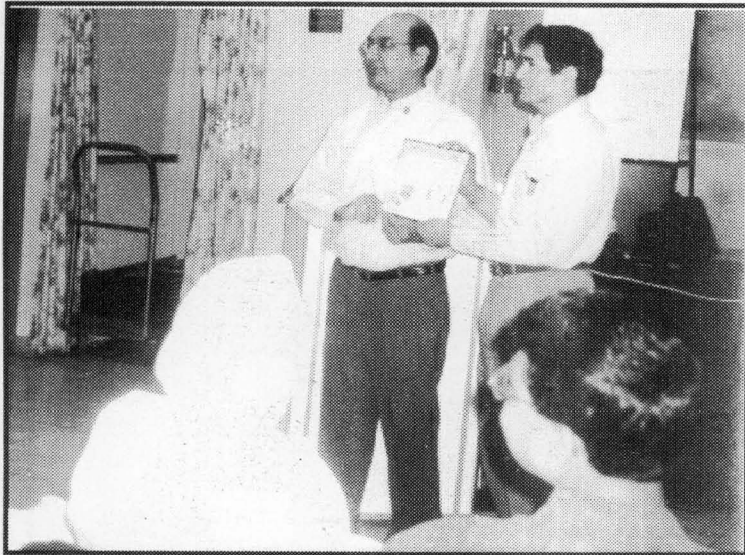


Dignitaries, guests and organizers together in 2601st Mahavir Jayanti.

IJS 2002 EVENTS



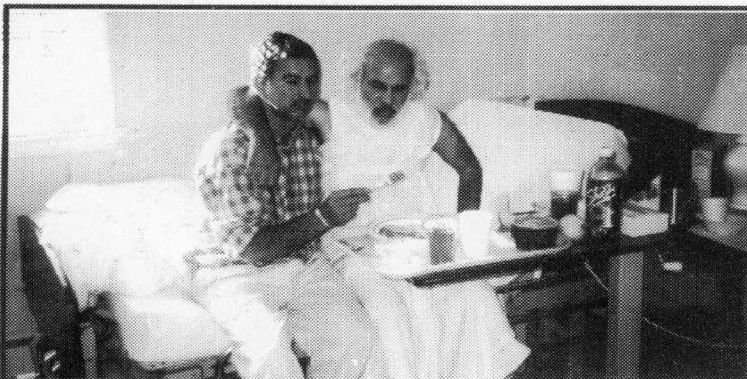
Interfaith Prayer by children premiered in Mahavir Jayanti has been presented in several institutions.



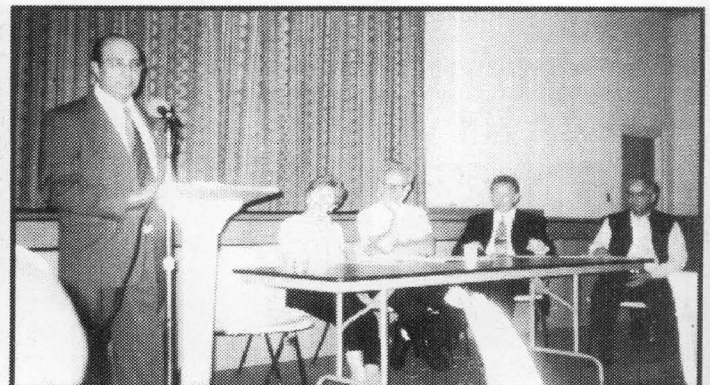
First Day Cover commemorating 2600th Birth Anniversary of Lord Mahavir issued by the Postal Department of India was gifted to the JainCenter of South California in the JAINA Pathshala Teachers convention.



Inter-religious dialogue at the Taiwanese Buddhist Center, Manhattan, NY.



HH Amrender Muniji recovering from stroke.

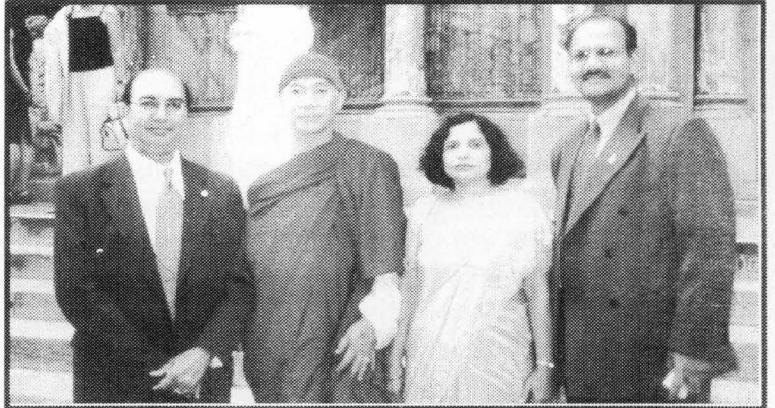


An Interfaith Reflection on Religion and the Environment at St. Mary's Church, Colts Neck, NJ.

IJS 2002 EVENTS



Dr. Hukamchand Bharill at the occasion of JAANA convention in Edison, NJ.



Dharam Master Hsin Tao with IJS group prior to the Interfaith Service at St. Bartholomew's Church in Manhattan on September 11.



Children initiating Diwali program by lighting lamps.



Girls, Dance and Stage at Diwali. Which one is more beautiful? Pick one.



Dads, children and moms- to preserve heritage, you can not do better than that.



How can you not be involved? What a Diwali spirit!

JAINISM AND ITS MODERN-DAY RELEVANCE

-Views of Professor Padmanabh Jaini

Bondage and Salvation

The object of “search” for a spiritually oriented Jain is his true identity. The body obviously could not be the self because it perishes. If you do not believe – as Christianity and some other religions do – in a single existence of the soul on earth followed by eternal heaven or hell, but you believe in the reincarnation of the soul as all Indian religions do, then you must define yourself by asking such question as: “Who am I, how do I come to have this body, what could be my relation with other fellow beings who also are caught up in this cycle of rebirth?” The Jains and the Buddhists deny any role for a “Creator God” either in the creation or in the salvation of souls. They believe that the souls have existed from beginningless times in the state of embodiment and will continue till eternity in that state, unless a way can be found to break this cycle. Instead of a single God the Jains have a series of teachers. Instead of bondage alone, there is bondage plus a possibility of salvation. The autonomy of soul is always maintained and this gives it a choice of bondage or salvation. You can say that a Jain is a person who chooses a path of salvation as shown by the Jinas.

The Jains understand bondage as the binding of the soul with the non-soul. The non-soul is matter; characterized by a certain touch, taste smell and color. In its gross form it is the body and the physical apparatus of the senses and the mind. These are supported and fashioned by a certain subtle and invisible matter capable of turning into *karma* and hence called the Karmic matter. The Jains are distinguished from other Indian religions by their doctrine that this mass of inanimate karmic matter pervades the whole universe. In a process which has no beginning in time, this subtle matter is automatically attracted to the soul when the latter, ignorant of its true nature, is charged with passions like attachment and aversion. Thus bound, it obstructs the qualities of the soul such as knowledge, purity and bliss; just as fine dust floating around might settle on the wet surface of a mirror and block its capacity to reflect objects.

The entire teaching can be summed up by one Sanskrit word: *samvara* (stopping of the influx). The influx of the karmic matter is going on continuously and it must result in bondage. The Jains believe that it is possible to stop this influx, as aspiration for emancipation (*moksha*) is innate to the soul. The soul’s ability to seek the true nature of itself and to overcome the passions is never totally destroyed by the mass of karma that surrounds it. This innate power of the soul can be developed fully by renouncing all attachment to worldly possessions as well as to the passions, in short: by following the ascetic path of the Jinas. Indeed it is hard to follow the ascetic path. But the Jains have also laid out an easier path for the lay people. This path lays out progressive stages through which a layperson practices *samvara* that leads to the life of an ascetic only towards the end of his active life as a householder. But even without following a formal discipline most Jains may be said to follow the minimum required of them: as for example, their practice of vegetarianism. Given the fact that human beings are not

vegetarians by birth (as cows and sheep are), it could be said that the Jains have made a moral choice by adhering to a vegetarian diet out of kindness to the animals, because of the belief that they too have a soul.

Jainism – a Small Religion

The Jain community is indeed small and it is true that Jains do not engage in activities of conversion just to increase in numbers. In this the Jains, in common with Hindus, share a belief that one should let things mature in their own way. What the Jains would want to do is to help non-Jains realize their own potentials in spiritual matters. Conversion is probably not the right word for this, for the Jains are content even when there is only a partial acceptance of their creed, such as ahimsa, by a non-Jain. Take for example the case of the Mughal Emperor Akbar who decreed that there should be no killing of animals (*amari*) in his realm on certain days holy to Jains, and even chose to be a vegetarian occasionally. Of course Akbar did not give up his Islamic faith, but the Jains were gratified that they had persuaded a non-believer emperor to respect the life of animals and to that extent he had embraced a basic tenet of Jainism.

Probably such a non-absolutist attitude can be traced to the most ancient Jain doctrine of *anekanta* or multifacetedness, which admits the possibility that reality can be viewed differently by different persons from a variety of angles. This provides the Jains with an incentive for critical inquiry in to the teaching of others, and regardless of the differences, it may lead to a peaceful co-existence.

Fundamental Differences between the Indian and Other Religions:

This is a very broad question and I cannot truly answer in a short time. Speaking of Jainism, there are certain basic values – respect for life for example – which distinguish it from others. Jains, as it is well known, don't have a holy cow. They don't worship animals. They don't dip in Ganges. And yet all life, both human and animal, and even the elements of "nature" (earth, water, fire and air) are "sacred" for them in the sense that they may not be violated. This respect for life, so much emphasized in Jainism but present in all Indian religions, can become the starting point in our search for new ethics for ecology.

The Bible tells us that the universe was created for man's exploitation and that animals were created as food for humans. Wealth and worldly power are seen as proof of God's grace. If this is true, then what is there to prevent us from excessive accumulation which must create a civilization based on consumption and supermarkets? Jainism and other Indian religions throughout the ages have been asking us to minimize our needs and to turn inside toward our souls for true happiness. Of course, the idea of renunciation is not altogether absent in other world religions and there is a common ground here on which to build a new society.

(Excerpts from an interview of Prof. Padmanabh S. Jaini by Mark Tully, BBC broadcaster and writer.)

INTERNATIONAL JAIN SANGH

THANKS

GRAND SPONSORS!

****AIR INDIA***

****AXA FOUNDATION (NEELAM JAIN)***

****JAIN, DRS. SANJAY & SEEMA***

****MEHTA, DRS. NAVIN & RASHMI***

****POLARIS SOFTWARE LAB LIMITED***



With Best Compliments

from

JAIN FAMILY

Dr. Sanjay, Dr. Seema
Shalabh and Shailee

26 Mallard Drive
Hackettstown, NJ 07840

MAHAVIR JAYANTI PROGRAM

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2003 Program Coordinator: Mr. Prem Jain
Hosts: Dr. Seema Jain and Mr. Sandeep Jain

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 Madhur Pragyaji and Sangh Pragyaji.
Samanijis are disciples of Acharya Mahapragyaji. Madhur Pragyaji was initiated twenty two years ago and is the chief of Samnijs. Sangh Pragyaji participated in the first IJS Mahavir Jayanti program in April 2000. They conduct meditation sessions and give speeches at various Jain centers.

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 2003 to Mr. Arvind Vora, Chairman of Long Island Multi-Faith Forum, recognizes his leadership effort for promoting the principles of Jainism through interfaith programs.

12:30-2:00 **Cultural Program**

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

1. **Tirthankar Vandana:** Jai Jayati Jai is choreographed by Divya Jain, an accomplished Bharat Natyam Dancer with several stage performances to her credit. She is also President of Creations Dance Academy, Inc., in Edison, NJ. The performers are Ishaan Jain and Sejal Jain.
2. **Ganesha Vandana:** It is a prayer to Lord Ganesha to remove all evils followed by Allaripu (Classical Bharatnatyam) which begins with simple movements and builds into a complex sequence of pure dance. The dancers are Nandita Munindra, Nritya Iyer, and Versh Prakash; and this item is choreographed by Divya Jain.
3. **Baarah Bhavna** is directed by Sonia Jain. The twelve sentiments are recited and their meanings explained by participants: Anshul Jain, Anchal Jain, Karan Sumbali, Jason Sumbali, Rikhab Jain, Shriyans Gokhru, Suhani Gokhru, Rishabh Jain, Aayushi Jain and Pooja Jain.
4. **‘Dipa’ Nritya:** This dance creating various formations in space with lights in hands is choreographed by Shubha Parmar of Shubhanjali School of Performing Arts. The lights signify harmony, compassion and peaceful coexistence. The dancers are Mridul Bhandari, Priya, Rashi Garg, and Avni Jain.

- 2:00-3:00 Lunch

~~~~~

# With Best Compliments From



**World's First  
CMMI-LEVEL 5  
Highest Quality in  
Software Engineering**

*Mr. Arun Jain, CEO of Polaris was felicitated in New Delhi on the event of achieving the World's 1st SEI-CMMI Level - 5 certification. Mr. Pramod Mahajan, Hon'ble minister of Information Technology and Mr. Kiran Karnik, Director Nasscom graced the occasion.*

*Energizing the IT Industry*

## Polaris Software Lab Limited

*Power of Precision*

Polaris Software Lab Limited  
244 Anna Salai Chennai - 600 006  
India  
Phone: 91-44-8524154 Fax: 852 3280  
[psl@polaris.co.in](mailto:psl@polaris.co.in)  
[www.polaris.co.in](http://www.polaris.co.in)

Polaris Software Lab Limited  
517 Route 1 South  
Iselin, New Jersey 08830  
Phone: 732-404-1199  
Fax: 732-404-1188  
[Vinay.garg@polaris.co.in](mailto:Vinay.garg@polaris.co.in)

## INTERNATIONAL JAIN SANGH SINCERELY THANKS

All Grand Sponsors, Patrons, Sponsors, Donors, Advertisers and volunteers of Mahavir Jayanti Program. We apologize for any name that may be inadvertently omitted. Please bring them to our attention.

### GRAND SPONSORS: (\$1100 and above)

Air India  
AXA Foundation (Neelam Jain)  
Jain, Drs. Sanjay & Seema

Mehta, Drs. Navin & Rashmi  
Polaris Software Lab Limited

### PATRONS: (\$500 and above)

Anonymous  
Jain, Ashok & Kusum (Jain Foods)  
Jain, Dr. Ashok & Neelam  
Jain, Prem & Sudha

Jain, Sampath & Dolores  
Jain, Dr. Subash & Sarla  
Jain, T.K. & Remu (Home Living)  
Kumar, Rajender & Neerja

### SPONSORS: (\$250 and above)

Kankaria, Surender & Sumitra

Shah, Chinu J

### DONORS: (\$100 and above)

Anonymous  
Bhandari, Narendar & Chitra  
Jain, Dr. Ari & Nirmal

Jain, Suresh & Dr. Sudesh Sheela  
Sheth, Akshay & Alpa

### ADVERTISERS:

Air India  
Brentwood Mortgage  
Bhandari, Narendar and Chitra  
Harish Hathiwal  
Jain, Alok & Anita  
Jain, Ajay & Dr. Asha  
Jain, Alok & Sonia  
Jain, Bhikam, Asha & Friends  
Jain Financial Services  
Jain, Naresh and Sarla  
Jain, Pawan & Anju

Jain, Prem & Sudha  
Jain, Pratap & Kusum  
Jain, Sampath & Dolores  
Jain, Sangya & Ashok  
Jain, Seema and Sanjay, MD  
Jain, Dr. Subash & Sarla  
Jain, T.K. and Renu  
Jain, Virendra & Nina  
Kankaria, Surender & Sumitra  
Kumar, Neerja and Rajender  
Mehta, Dr. Navin & Rashmi

Nahata, Paras & Kiran  
Pathway Yoga  
Polaris Software Lab Limited  
Saraf, Komal. C  
Shah, Chinu  
Shah, Dilip & Sarla  
Shah, Hemant, M.D.  
Singhi, Mool & Shanti  
Udipi- Jain Foods

### VOLUNTEERS:

Bhandari, Sunita & Jitendra  
Garg, Poonam & Vinay  
Jain, Ashok-Jain Foods  
Jain Ashok & Neelam  
Jain, Manoj

Jain, Naresh & Sarla  
Jain, Pratap  
Jain, Pawan  
Jain, Prem & Sudha  
Jain, Sampath & Dolores  
Jain, Sandeep

Jain, Dr. Seema  
Jain, Shri  
Kothari, Anita  
Kumar, Rajender & Neerja  
Singhi, Mool

# INTERNATIONAL JAIN SANGH

## Pledge for Mutual Respect and Nonviolence

On this auspicious occasion, 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.



# AWARD OF EXCELLENCE



International Jain Sangh has instituted an Annual Award of Excellence since the year 2001. It honors an exceptionally worthy person, who has visibly and verifiably demonstrated a great service to further the teachings of Lord Mahavir including peace, nonviolence, Jain education, and compassion either by practice or by influencing public policies, media coverage or through interfaith programs.

The Award of Excellence for the year 2003 to Mr. Arvind Vora recognizes his leadership for promoting the teachings of Jainism mainstream, particularly peace and nonviolence, through inter-faith programs. He is the Chairman of the Long Island Multi-Faith Forum, a composition of twelve faiths started in 1994 to affirm publicly that religious pluralism is a reality and is to be valued. It works together toward building a society that recognizes the value of every person by promoting peace and justice for all. The most challenging task for Arvind is to keep 12 faiths together and keep discussing the issues on the table. According to an article in Newsday, one of the top 10 largest metropolitan newspapers in USA, Arvind's philosophy is to be careful to observe two fundamental principles: Ahimsa and Aparigraha. First is not to be hurtful to others; and the second is not to buy or keep things that you don't need. According to Arvind, the message to respect everyone's religion has never changed, but Sept. 11 has propelled it, to get it out faster and to a wider audience.

Arvind Vora is an engineer by profession, and lives on Long Island, NY with his wife Ila, daughter Anjali and son Aditya. He is founder of Jain Society of Long Island, a founder and former president of India Association of Long Island, and a founder of Shanti Fund. He has held offices in several organizations including Jain Center of America-NY, Federation of JAINA, Anuvibha, and Federation of India Association-NY; and has also been active in political, business and social arenas. He led a multi-faith delegation of 15 people to the Whitehouse in 1993 for the bill signing ceremony of the 'Freedom of Religions Restoration Act' by President Clinton.

International Jain Sangh is proud to honor Mr. Arvind Vora with its prestigious Award of Excellence. The past recipients are Mr. Bawa Jain and Dr. Dhiraj H. Shah.

# JAINS AT THE MUSEUM OF WORLD RELIGIONS IN TAIWAN

The first Museum of World Religions (MWR) was inaugurated in Taiwan on 9 November 2001, concluding the ten-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, along with 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, while Mr Naresh Jain represented



*HH Amrender Muniji signing a document to establish the Global Commission for Preservation of Sacred Sites worldwide*

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 Centre 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.

For further information visit [www.mwr.org.tw](http://www.mwr.org.tw)

## INTERNATIONAL JAIN SANGH AWARD TO DR. DHIRAJ SHAH



More than 500 people attended the Mahavir Jayanti celebration of International Jain Sangh on April 28 in South River NJ. The celebration began with Mahavir Swami Puja in the morning. H. H. Amrendra Muniji gave the spiritual lecture and Dr. P. Jayaraman of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan was the guest speaker. Most of the cultural items presented were by the children including a play about Chandanbala. Another inspiring skit was the representation of multi cultural life. The children presented glimpse of the prayer, symbol and clothing of Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh faith.

The Award for Excellence for the year 2002 was given to Dr. Dhiraj H. Shah, former President of IAINA - in recognition of his leadership in promoting principles of Jainism worldwide through humanitarian efforts. In accepting the Award, Dhirajbhai stressed that his was a team effort and the award belonged to all those

volunteers who helped to bring relief to the victims of tragedies – earthquake in Gujarat, Uttarakshi (U.P), Maharashtra, Northridge (C.A), Cyclone in Orissa and Kandala and Mississippi river flood etc.

Rep. Frank Pallone, founder of India Caucus in the house of Representative was also present and he presented copy of the Congressional Record of Mahavir Jayanti proclamation he sponsored in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Anita, Neelam, and Naresh,

As indicated in Ellen Chaddha's e-mail below, THE JAIN CHILDREN GIVING PRAYERS OF DIFFERENT FAITHS IS BEING SHOWN (ALONG WITH SOMETHING ON UNICEF) ON COMCAST (CHANNEL 97) ON TUESDAY NIGHTS (8.00 P.M.) DURING DECEMBER. This is the program first given at the IJS Mahavir Jayanti in April 2002 and later repeated at the Monmouth Center in Lincroft. Anita had organized this program. Please pass on this info to anybody who you think may be interested in seeing it on TV. THANKS  
Ari

----- Original Message -----

**From:** RChaddha@aol.com

**To:** ToniePax@aol.com ; emahmoud@att.com ; RChaddha@aol.com ; REVHEPLER@aol.com ; Revmholmes@aol.com ; arijain@hotmail.com ; esmatmahmoud@yahoo.com ; umarani123@hotmail.com ; Hardip ; Merle ; wjGeldart@worldnet.att.net ; Surshom@aol.com ; Isabelle ; Stevi/Robert ; Preet ; Lizcongdon@aol.com ; John ; Rosssw@aol.com ; LbelleD@aol.com

**Sent:** Sunday, December 08, 2002 9:01 PM

**Subject:** MON. CENTER PROGRAM ON COMCAST

## Jain preaches tolerance, peace

### Works with all faiths with 'live and let live' message

BY JAIMIE JULIA WINTERS

Editor

Two days after the attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, Naresh Jain of Rutherford attended an interfaith mass at St. Bartholomew's Church in Manhattan. During the religious procession, a priest noticed Naresh Jain's lapel pin of a raised palm – a symbol of Jainism.

"Are you Jain?" the priest asked. After Naresh Jain, the vice president of the International Jain Sangh, answered yes, the priest replied, "This is truly the time for Mahavir."

**Jainism's basic philosophy is ahimsa or non-injury to all life forms mentally, emotionally, verbally or physically.**



**AMENDER MUNIJI:** As you know Muniiji suffered quite a serious stroke around June 25, 2002. With the blessings and support of good souls, we have been able to pull him out from the danger. He is recovering very well but not yet ready for his preaching routine. JAINA has paid for his medical expenses of \$9,600. International Jain Sangh has played very important role in looking after his health. They are paying for their rehab equipment, therapy and medicines. For more information please contact Kirit C. Dattary, @ 254-776-4209 or netrat@att.net

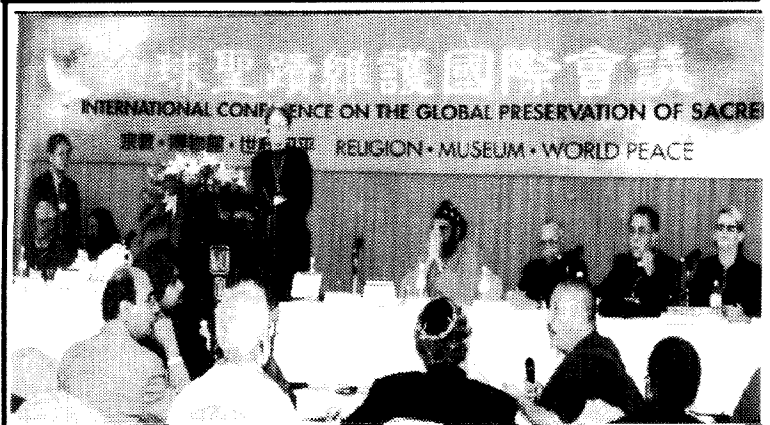
#### Vardhman Nagar Progress Report:

Below is latest status of our project in Bhuj, Kutch, Gujarat

|                              |            |       |
|------------------------------|------------|-------|
| Finish work in progress      | 8          | units |
| Completed up to slab level   | 108        | units |
| Completed up to lintel level | 39         | units |
| Completed up to sill level   | 59         | units |
| Completed up to coping       | 36         | units |
| Completed up to plinth       | 6          | units |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>250</b> |       |

**They are planning for construction of dispensary and school building in 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> week of Nov. 2002.**

*R. C. Shah, Secretary, Vardhman Nagar Owners' Association*



(耆那教代表·(美國) Naresh Jain)

他同意非洲53個國家中，在世界宗教博物館當中應有更多  
的代表。

## Bhavan's NewsBriefs

Dr. Jayaraman had the audience with his Holiness Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, founder, Art of living foundation during the reception held in his honor in New York on January 29 and 30, 2002.

He spoke during the Mahavir Jayanti celebration at U.N Plaza chapel on April 25. Also he participated in a similar event organized by International Jain Sangh, New Jersey on April 28.

## LACHHWAD ON OUR MIND

- Dilip V Shah, Philadelphia

Lachhwad is the town where our Kshatriyakund Teerth is located. Over two thousand years ago, Bhadrabahu— Swami gave a vivid and detailed description of Kshatriyakund in the Kalp Sutra. This is the land of Shri Mahaveer Swami's Janma, Chyavan and Diksha Kalyanaks. It was a capital city during the reign of King Siddarth. This land of three kalyanaks of our last Teerthankar is one of the poorest towns in Bihar today. Yatris on Pilgrimage of Shree Samet Sikharji try to include pilgrimage of Kshatriyakund but many are afraid to go to Lachhwad because of the unfounded fears of being robbed or killed. But it is true that there are no Jain families living in Lachhwad today. Most of the population is known as Adiwasis and they are Non Vegetarians. Message of Mahaveer in the land of Mahaveer is all but forgotten.



Until last year, our Temple and Dharamsala were the only brick and mortar building in Lachhwad. There are no industries, hospitals or any kind of job opportunities. The only available income in town was cutting wood from the trees on the mountain or from pilgrims. Doliwalas make about two to three thousand rupees a year if they are lucky. Kids earn from begging. Most kids do not attend school. The cycle of poverty will keep rolling on and on from one generation to the next without any hopes of better days. JAINA Yatris of 2001 Pilgrimage visited the only school in town and were moved by the horrible conditions in which the kids were studying. The school had no roof. Students would stand under the tree during rains. Our Yatris decided to do something. Fortunately on their next stop at Veerayatan, Acharya Shree Chandanaji agreed to build a school with the JAINA support. Within 5 days of that understanding between JAINA and Veerayatan, someone in Lachhwad donated the land for the school!

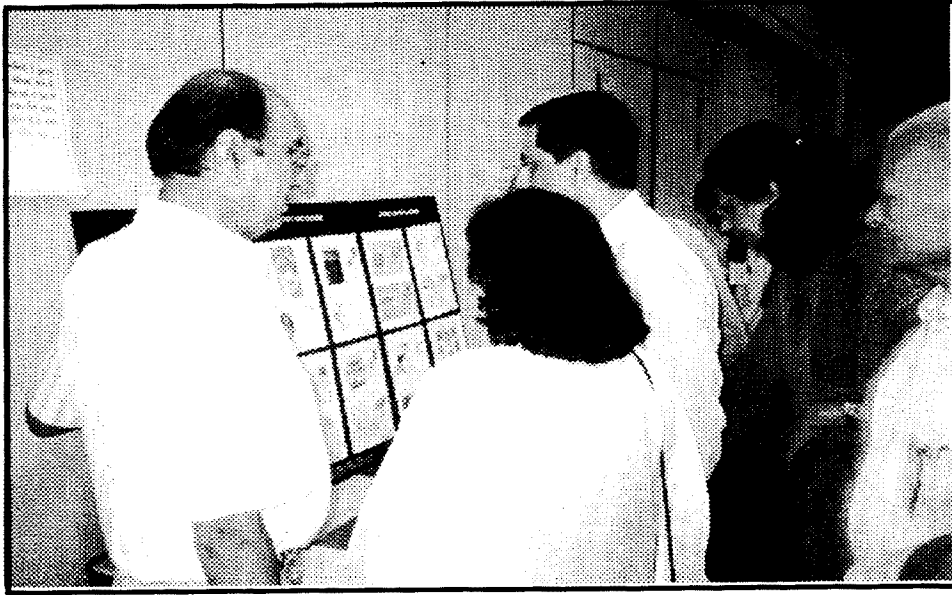
Two years later, this January, the 2003 JAINA pilgrims got to visit the new Teerthankar Mahaveer Vidyalay built and run by Veerayatan. The school with

ten classrooms and 150 students is nothing short of miracle created in just 18 months. It is still a work in progress. Concrete columns rising from the terrace and construction crews are unmistakable signs of more good things to come. By May 2003, three hundred more students will be added. Some of our Yatris had tears in their eyes as they heard the young ones in uniforms recite Navakar Mantra and other devotional songs.

The school is operational but it is in dire need of help. The fifty Rupees fee per month pays less than twenty five percent of the cost of running the school and most parents in that town can not even afford the fee, the cost of uniforms or the school supplies. The Pilgrimage Committee and the Teerthodhhar Committee of JAINA are working together to support this school and in a sense become Teerth Rakshak of Lachhwad. Yatris of 2001 Pilgrimage were the catalyst for this project.

2003 Yatris have also done their part. One couple has committed \$5,000 to purchase the adjacent land parcel that will be used as a playground and for future expansion. Another Yatri has pledged computers and sewing machines for the students. In exchange for schooling costs of their children, all fourteen karmacharis of our Dharmasala pledged to become vegetarian. For the next school year beginning in May, we decided to grant one hundred scholarships of \$250 each for the needy students of Lachhwad that will last three years and cover tuition, uniforms and school supplies. Our Yatris have pledged 40 scholarships and will help raise the remaining scholarships. Half of the \$250 from each scholarship will go towards supporting the child and the other half will be awarded to school to lessen their deficit. The three year scholarships are need based and will continue even if the child does not do well. The scholarship program will be administered in USA by Niyati Sheth of Edmond, OK and Nik Daftary of Waco, TX

We at the Pilgrimage Committee and the Tirthodhhar Committee of JAINA are convinced that this school will bring lots of good things to our Teerthbhoomi. Every Doliwala, or town person we came in contact with in Lachhwad appealed our Yatris to get their children admitted into the "American School". Imagine what your \$250 will do. For less than twenty-five cents per day, a child will be educated, obtain Jain Samskar and one day break out of the cycle of poverty. Jain pilgrims will be seen in the town not as targets but as benefactors of the town. What can Jains or JAINA do in India that can have more profound impact than educating the poor? Vidya Daan lasts a lifetime! If you would like to help, please contact: Dilip V Shah at (215) 561-0581 or Kirit Daftary at (254) 776-4209



A collection of Jain Stamps and First Day Covers issued by Postal Departments was exhibited in 2002 by the International Jain Sangh in the Mahavir Jayanti Program, South River, New Jersey; JAINA Teachers Conference, Los Angeles, California; JAANA Spiritual Conference, Edison, New Jersey; and the Young Jains of America (YJA) convention held in Mahwah, New Jersey. It had drawn crowds as well as overwhelming appreciation. The collection was put together by Mr. Pradip Jain, Patna, India.

The collection of stamps (Jain) was  
amazing - I WANT SOME

Neil Mashwala  
Chicago

Mashwala 86 @ yahoo.com

It has truly brought an awareness to  
me about Jainism. I especially found  
it to be helpful because I am of  
another faith. What a wonderful  
collection of stamps.

Reta Varia  
New Jersey

It is always touching to see that there  
are people working ~~so~~ so hard to spread Jainism.  
These people are very motivated and I trust them fully.

- Arpan Shah  
New York

# JAIN CONDUCT

**J**ust

**A**miable

**I**nclusive

**N**onviolent

## Beyond Violence: Teachings of Jainism

-Naresh Jain

During the 20<sup>th</sup> century we just completed, leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Nelson Mandela achieved historical social changes in several countries through the heroic adaptation of nonviolence in their approach. They had shown the power of the spirit that nonviolence is stronger than violence as well as that in fact it eliminates so much of violence. Unfortunately, right in the beginning of this new millennium, we have already witnessed disastrous acts of violence. These events have shattered the peace of thousands of families. This is the moment in which our religious values, beliefs and commitments are put to test.

Jainism is one of the ancient religions of India. The most notable feature of Jain ethics is the insistence on *ahimsa* or non-injury to all forms life, mentally, emotionally, verbally or physically. The closest word to *ahimsa* in English would be nonviolence. As violence in thoughts precedes violent words or actions, the strict observance of nonviolence requires extreme caution in all activities. Just as non-darkness would mean light all around, nonviolence would lead to universal love. This attitude makes a person humble and peaceful in living with other beings.

Jainism places great emphasis on the principles of Open-mindedness or Anekantvaad. The truth is the knowledge of reality which can be seen from different perspectives such as time, place and also from its relationship with others. According to this philosophy, the absolute truth is the sum total of all different viewpoints. It trains the mind to respect the views and feelings of other persons. It makes them tolerant, respectful to others, and secular.

In the aftermath of the acts of violence, revenge would be a natural reaction. But the wisdom lies in the ability to control that reaction. The philosophy of Jainism has flowed through the experience of human individuals like Mahavir, who found the causes of violence, and then controlled and conquered those passions. The conduct based on his teachings would lead to virtues such as tolerance, peaceful, respectful and harmonious relations; maturity, wisdom, as well as care of our earth. These ethics can potentially avoid enormous funds that are spent on security, defense and environmental clean ups which can be utilized for the welfare of the less fortunate worldwide.

In modern life we tend to look at things materialistically and try to find comfort in wishes and wants. We live in a society of worldly temptations where it is easy to ignore the soul. We are increasingly replacing human contact by electronic contact. There are opportunities to become wealthy. If we do not control ourselves, then the ever increasing wants will wakeup the army of inner passions. This would tend to lead to dishonesty, corruption, and shady deals which will end up in harming others. If we cultivate self-accountability and discipline, and then conduct business with good and ethical means; it would result in honest management, trustworthiness and peaceful relations. The wealth thus acquired would become a means for philanthropy.



Sometimes we also face problems when people look at the things from purely spiritual perspective. The acceptance and implementation of the literal meaning of non verifiable assumptions and scriptures can sometimes drive the faithful to commit crimes. Since the ancient periods of various scriptures, there has been a phenomenal increase in human knowledge and the world has become significantly smaller. We should analyze and adopt those principles or values, which make us, better human beings and condemn those, which push us toward hatred.

A combination of strong beliefs, unverifiable assumptions and impatience to achieve a goal can impel a person to the acts of terrorism. Jainism places great emphasis on the right conduct in daily life aided by right knowledge and right vision. As long as we keep broadening our understanding, we will not fall in to narrow ideas. If we raise our conduct to higher levels, the moral blossoming of the society will definitely occur.

In early 1980s I met and was inspired by the Late Acharya Sushil Kumarji Maharaj (popularly known as Guruji), the first Jain monk to travel outside of India. He did significant work with politicians in India to reduce ethnic tensions. According to him, politicians or politics can not bring peace. In that system one person represents the elected government, or the party and not the whole country. The politicians can misuse the power at any time. If you are fighting for your own rights, you are bringing one fighting in place of another. You are adding violence and war. When we do not demand any rights for ourselves and when we are ready to protect the rights of others that is the system of nonviolence. Ultimately, Mahatma Gandhi had also become a complete follower of nonviolence. In Guruji's words, without nonviolence there will be no future of this world. Nonviolence means we love all. You feel oneness with all living beings. Love.

We live in a society of temptations surrounded by violence. We have enough arms and nuclear weapons to destroy the earth several times. We have our own beliefs and our own paths to achieve our goals. Some times, these paths will cross each other and that is when we have to be careful. If we want a peaceful world, we must learn to live together or we will perish together. You can not put poison in one part of the lake and not be affected by it at all. We must realize that when we harm another, we harm ourselves. We need to civilize our hearts.

Finally, one has to remain focused to the broad objective of cultivating the right spirit and raising the society toward a culture of peace and justice. Every moment is a new beginning. No matter what we have done before, we can start fresh by first becoming peaceful with ourselves. If we challenge ourselves to be truthful, reduce anger and greed, and consider ethical implications before taking any action, our individual choices and actions combined with others will make a difference. Then truly this world would become a better place for our children and grand children.

(Summary of the presentation made by the author in the Interfaith dialogue "Beyond Violence" held at Kirkridge Retreat and Study Center, Pennsylvania, in June 2002.)



STATE OF NEW YORK

GEORGE E. PATAKI  
GOVERNOR

August 23, 2002

Mr. Naresh Jain  
50 Maple Street  
Rutherford, New Jersey 07070

Dear Mr. Jain:

As we approach the one year anniversary of September 11<sup>th</sup>, I write in the hope that our combined efforts will make for an appropriate reflection and proper commemoration of last year's tragedy and of the heroes we lost.

The unspeakable losses we suffered left a terrible wake of destruction and grief shared by all New Yorkers. Thousands of families lost loved ones. Hundreds of heroic rescuers died bravely. The feelings of safety and security of many, including school children, were shattered. But amidst the pain and sorrow that followed that tragic day, we saw our State pull together in an unprecedented display of unity. We witnessed the undisputed courage and fortitude of the people of New York, and were moved by the unforgettable acts of compassion that followed from around the country.

September 11<sup>th</sup> is a day of great emotion and difficulty for all of us, and it will be for each year to come. It is important that as we mark this anniversary, we do so in a way that recognizes not only all that we lost, but also the strength and spirit that enable us to endure.

For that reason, I am requesting that in a demonstration of spiritual unity, you join other religious institutions in tolling your bells on September 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:29 a.m. sharp. This time coincides with the time the North Tower fell on that most tragic of days. I am also requesting that New Yorkers observe a moment of silence at 8:46 a.m., the moment of impact of the first plane into the World Trade Center, pause again at 9:03 a.m., the time of the second impact, 9:59 a.m. at the time the first tower collapsed, and finally at 10:29 a.m. when the second tower collapsed.

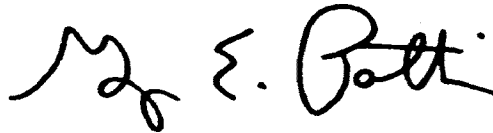
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER    STATE CAPITOL    ALBANY 12224  
<http://www.state.ny.us>



Many New Yorkers will also seek houses of worship on that day for reflection. I expect that the day will be filled with emotion and sensitivity as we reflect on this tragedy, and I encourage all houses of worship to remain open for the entire day and into the evening hours to provide a venue for those in need of an appropriate location to sit, grieve, pray and be comforted.

I appreciate your assistance with this most important effort and thank you for your understanding. Together, we will continue to foster the spirit of strength and unity needed from all New Yorkers to cope with the lingering pain of September 11<sup>th</sup>.

Very truly yours,



2495 Fox Gap Road  
Bangor, PA 18013-6028  
(610) 588 - 1793  
Fax (610) 588-8510  
[www.kirkridge.org](http://www.kirkridge.org)

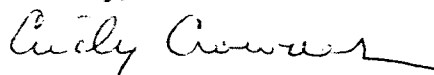
Dear friends in the Jain community,

For several years, Naresh Jain has represented the Jain community at Kirkridge's annual interfaith dialogue events. Through these events we have learned of the deep commitment of Jainism to the principles of non-violence at all levels--interpersonal, social, and even ecological.

We salute you on this 2601th birthday of Lord Mahavir. His message of non-violence is so needed in our world today. With our nation threatening war against the nation of Iraq, with the threat of terrorist retaliation in the event of war against a largely Muslim nation, we are brought face to face with the truth of your faith. Violence only begets more violence. Indeed, non-violence is not only the compassionate way--it has now become the only practical way.

We honor your deep commitment to peace and we are grateful as well for our interfaith partnerships. If we fail to learn from those who profess other faith commitments, the long history of competition among the major world religious traditions will continue unchecked. Thank you for your profound witness. May we in the Christian community in all humility open our hearts to the truth of your tradition.

Sincerely,



Rev. Cynthia Crowner

# BRENTWOOD MORTGAGE, LLC

ROOSEVELT PLAZA,  
2 W NORTHFIELD ROAD, SUITE 204B  
LIVINGSTON, NJ 07039

PH: (973) 597 0909

FAX: (973) 597 0880

Email: [brentwoodmtg@att.net](mailto:brentwoodmtg@att.net)

**Contact: RANJIT BAROT**

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE LOWEST RATES IN THE LAST 40 YEARS

COMPETITIVE RATES FROM NATION'S TOP LENDERS

- **PURCHASE & REFINANCE**
- **NO INCOME / NO ASSET/ NO JOB PLANS**
- **WE HAVE PLANS TO MEET CREDIT PROBLEMS**
- **WE DO H-1 VISA MORTGAGES**
- **CONSOLIDATE DEBT AT FIXED LOW RATES**
- **NO "TEASER" RATES**
- **NO HIDDEN CHARGES. WRITTEN ASSURANCES**
- **JUMBO & SUPER JUMBO LOANS**
- **WIDE VARIETY OF ADJUSTABLE RATE PROGRAMS INCLUDING LIBOR RATES**
- **WE DO COMMERCIAL MORTGAGES AS WELL**

NJ Dept of Banking Licensed Mortgage Broker  
MEMBER OF LIVINGSTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FLYING RETURNS OPENS ITS DOORS  
TO RESIDENTS IN USA AND CANADA.



EARN FREE TICKETS TO OVER 300 DESTINATIONS WORLDWIDE  
ON THE AIR-INDIA AND INDIAN AIRLINES NETWORK.



Come Aboard India's Largest Frequent Flyer Programme

Membership to Flying Returns is now open to individuals in USA and Canada.  
For further details, contact your nearest Air-India office or just log on to [www.airindia.com](http://www.airindia.com).



**एअर इंडिया**  
**AIR-INDIA**