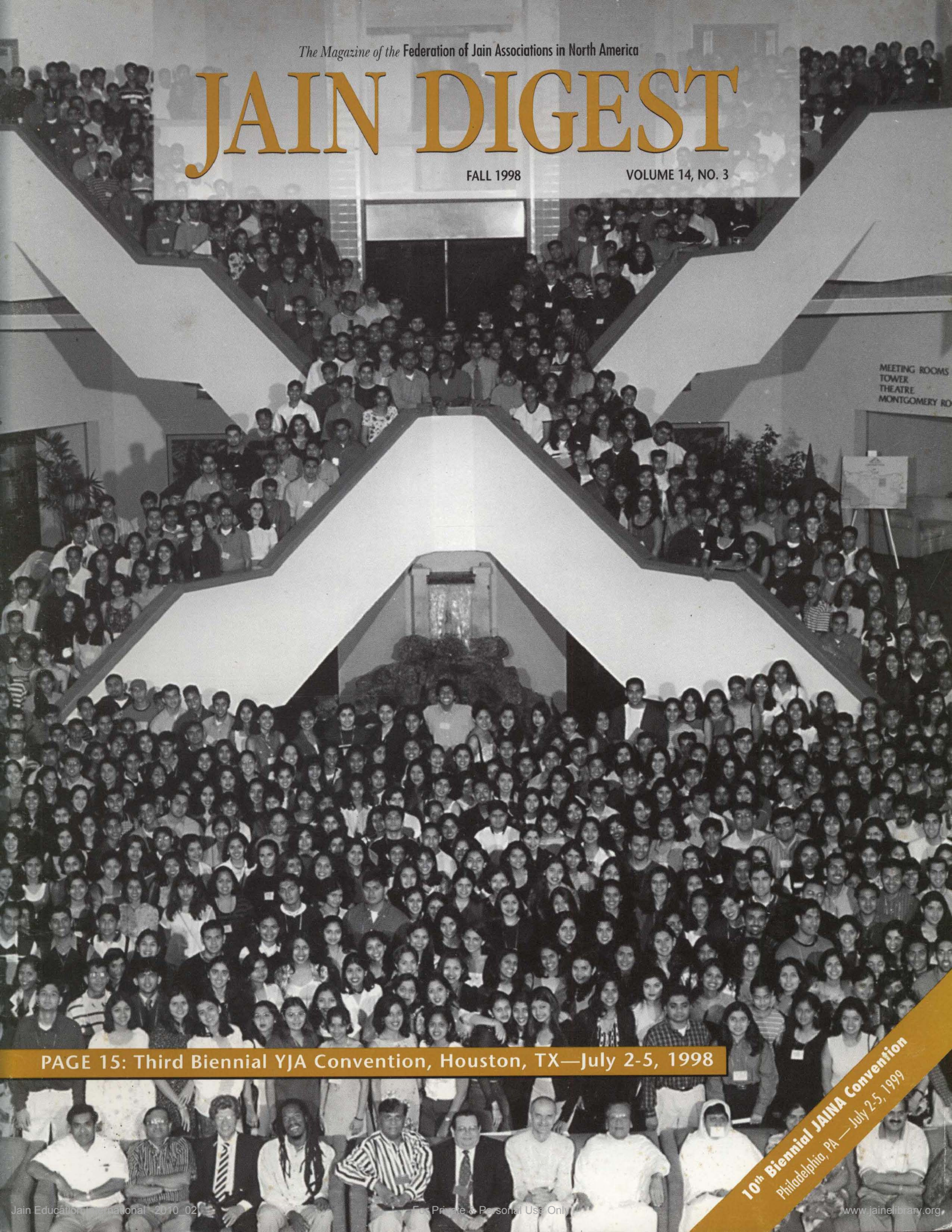


The Magazine of the Federation of Jain Associations in North America

# JAIN DIGEST

FALL 1998

VOLUME 14, NO. 3

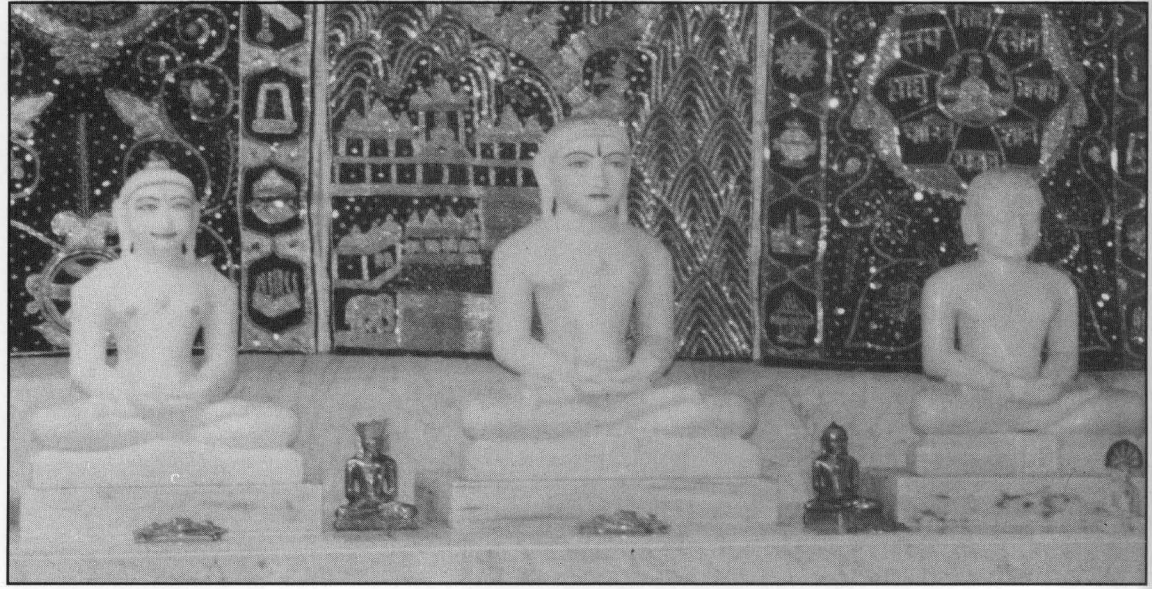


PAGE 15: Third Biennial YJA Convention, Houston, TX—July 2-5, 1998

10<sup>th</sup> Biennial JAINA Convention  
Philadelphia, PA — July 2-5, 1999



# JAIN TEMPLE, WASHINGTON, DC



## JAI JINENDRA

अहो! अहो! श्री सद्गुरु, करुणासिंधु अपार  
आ पामर पर प्रभु कर्यो, अहो! अहो! उपकार (१२४)

Thanks! the Holy True Teacher!  
Unfathomable ocean of compassion;  
I'm highly obliged; Oh! good Teacher,  
The Pupil poor has no expression. (124)

शुं प्रभुचरणकने धरुं? आत्माथी सह हीन;  
ते तो प्रभुअे आपियो, वर्तु चरणाधिन (१२५)

What should I offer to you, Lord?  
In soul-comparison all is trifle;  
The soul is gifted by the Lord,  
I wish to act to your oracle. (125)

- Shri Atmasiddhi Shastra, Srimad Rajchandra -

We dedicate ourselves to ceaseless efforts of  
Acharya Sushil Kumarji and Gurudev Chitrabhanuji,  
in spreading the principles of Jainism  
among all the Jains settled in North America.

We congratulate the Executive Committee for their devoted service to JAINA.

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## Once again, 'JAINA' is there!

Time and time again, our principles of non-violence, non-possessiveness, multiplicity of viewpoints, and compassion have been tested. Without fail, we have proved to the world that we do indeed practice what we preach.

When there were earthquakes in Uttarkashi (UP), Northridge (CA), Latur (Maharashtra), and Kobe (Japan), JAINA was there to help restore the shattered lives of the victims. When the mighty Mississippi River flooded, JAINA was there to assist the residents of Quincy, Illinois. When civil war erupted in Rwanda, JAINA was there, working with the American Red Cross, to help the refugees. For this particular effort, JAINA was recognized as an 'Institution of the Year' by the Niagara Falls chapter of the Red Cross. When 1500 orphans were left helpless by the Latur earthquake, JAINA was there to rehabilitate them, working alongside the BJS. When both Ahmedabad (Gujarat) and Bahubali (Maharashtra) needed an ambulance, JAINA was there to satisfy the need. When hospitals in Bombay, Ujjain, and Gondal needed specific medical equipment, JAINA was there to provide Bombay with a new mammography machine, Ujjain with a much needed anesthetic machine, and Gondal with a sight saving phaco emulsification machine. When a draught struck Gujarat, JAINA was there to save the lives of animals by providing fodder. When the tribal women in Mangrol, Gujarat needed a women's health center, JAINA was there to construct one. When the needy people of Vasai needed a dispensary, JAINA was there to start one, free of charge to the village people. JAINA sets up medical camps in various parts of India and treats thousands of patients who would have otherwise died prematurely. JAINA also sends thousands of pounds of clothes yearly to India in order to help clothe the indigent population.

Once again, our compassion is being tested. On June 9, 1998, a cyclone devastated the west coast of India. Thousands are reported dead and many are without shelter and food. This is the time for all of us, the steadfast followers of *jiv daya* (compassion for all living beings), to rush to the aid of the victims who lost family members, farms, live stock, their homes and much more. In many areas, till this day, there is no power to supply essentials such as drinking water. With winds blowing at velocities approaching 150km/hr, the cyclone destroyed everything that crossed its path. Words are not sufficient to describe the havoc and destruction experienced by the people of Kandala and the neighboring towns by this, the worst cyclone of the century.

JAINA has immediately diverted a consignment of thousands of pounds of clothes to be distributed to the needy. Our co-chair of the World Community Service committee, Prakash Mehta, was immediately sent to India to assess the situation. Now, in response to his hands-on report, we have joined hands with Vivekanand Research and Training Institute and adopted two villages and taken full responsibility for the rehabilitation of the villages' residents.

The scars of devastation left by mother nature will never be forgotten. It is difficult to imagine the agony of people who went through the ferocity of the cyclone. We must do our best to help these victims as much as we can. I have no doubt that you have already sent your tax-deductible contribution or are planning to do so. We have already sent our first installment of \$25,000 to India.

At the same time, a few thousand miles away, 133 out of every 10,000 children under the age of 5 are dying everyday because of a disastrous famine and war currently plaguing southern Sudan.

We can't bring peace to southern Sudan. We can't coax the rains to return. But, we can prevent the needless death of thousands of men, women, and children. To do so, we need your support. Your donation will help us fend off a looming catastrophe.

Please do not procrastinate. Time is of the essence.

Send your tax-deductible contribution (payable to JAINA in the U.S. and to the S.S. Jain Foundation in Canada) to: JAINA Headquarters, PO Box 700, Getzville, NY 14068-0700.

Jai Jinendra!



Dhiraj Shah

# JAIN DIGEST

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IN NORTH AMERICA

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Spring (March)	February 15
Summer (June)	May 15
Fall (September)	July 30
Winter (December)	November 15



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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR OF JAIN DIGEST

We encourage our readers to send their questions, comments or views on current issues or concerns facing the Jain community of North America to the Editor in Chief, Lata Champsee. We endeavor to publish all letters, space permitting. The JAIN DIGEST reserves the right to edit all material for clarity and/or space. All letters must include the sender's name, address and phone number to be considered for publication.



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## FROM THE EDITOR IN CHIEF

Jai Jinendra !

The YJA convention in Houston was a grand success—a testimony of countless hours spent by our youth. The YJA convention gives our youth an opportunity to come together and develop a deeper understanding of Jainism and Indian culture. During the summer, the Jain community was bursting with activities—Pratishtha Mahotsav in Detroit, Bhumi Pujan in Tampa, Jain Shibirs in many centers, religious discourses throughout North America.

The Winter issue of JAIN DIGEST will be a special issue on “Golden Years and its Challenges”. We need your input and articles relating to activities, community housing, health and benefits such as social security and pensions. We would like to publish useful information that specifically relates to our community. Please forward such material to me or to Vinay Vakani, Northeast regional editor, at the addresses included on page 2. Hope to hear from you.

*Lata Champsee*

## FROM THE PUBLISHING EDITOR

It has been a little over a year now since Lata Champsee and I have begun producing the JAIN DIGEST. Both of us started working on this magazine after the then-new JAINA President, Dhiraj Shah, asked us to join the staff.

During this time period, a number of curious people have asked about the behind-the-scenes process.

Lataben gathers and edits all of the materials from the Regional and Associate Editors, while Associate Editors Hasmukh Shah and the Gaurav Kapadia prepare the MIS and Young Minds sections, respectively. This material is sent directly to me in electronic form (by disk in the first case, by email in the second). She then develops a rough layout of the issue.

Kamlesh Amin also prepares some of the photos to be used in the next issue, and coordinates with Lataben to make sure every-

thing has been proofed by Lataben, Mr. Amin and Dr. Shah.

Next, everything is handed over to me. Lataben emails her materials, and I receive the photos from Mr. Amin. I lay out the issue within two to three days.

Just before going to the printer, all four of us take a final look to check for any serious errors. The printer is then handed a disk (containing the layouts and scanned images), an annotated printout and any camera-ready materials needed (usually these are only ads).

Almost the entire production process is electronic. This has helped to both reduce our production time and our costs. It has also made us unusually efficient: Lata Champsee and I have never met in person—everything has been done by phone and email!

*Navin K. Jain*

## LETTERS

Dear Editor:

My family and I were fortunate enough to attend a week long Jain Family Shibir at Siddhachalam from August 1, 1998 to August 8, 1998. This Shibir was held in the auspicious presence and under the direction of Pujya Kirtichandraji Maharaj. About 35 children ranging in age from 4 years to 20 years attended as well as 45 adults. The participants came from New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Washington DC, Chicago, Texas and Toronto, Canada.

The theme of this shibir was “Bhakti Marg” for the adults and “Essence of Jainism” for the children. Jain scholar Shri Chandrakantbhai Mehta gave some discourses to all the participants. Chanting of Stotras and storytelling completed the itinerary for the children.

A typical day at the Shibir began with Yoga and Meditation at 7:00 a.m. where Guruji taught the Principles of Yoga and Meditation with various Asanas and Pranayam techniques to quieten

the mind and train the body. It was refreshing to see all the children attend all Yoga sessions.

Guruji’s lectures on “Bhakti Marg” taught us about the Power and Creation of Love from within and to create unity with Arihants and Siddhas. He also explained how this same Love and Unity can be utilized in our day to day lives. Our day would end with Bhakti and Aarti at the temple.

It was not all work and no play. We had a picnic in the Pocono Mountains as well as a fabulous Cultural Program. I was particularly overjoyed to see such enthusiasm among the children. Even my 5 and 7 year old daughters want to come back for the camp! Guruji has delightfully agreed to return next year for a week long shibir on “Jain Dharma and Grahastha Jivan”. I would encourage everyone to take this opportunity and keep their calendars open for a week from July 31, 1999. See you at Siddhachalam.

*Purnima Doshi  
Vestal, New York*



## Samet Shikhar Yatra Update

64 North American Jains have signed up for the very first Sangh Yatra organized by JAINA to places of pilgrimage in India. They are from New York, New Jersey, California, Florida, Chicago, Detroit, Oklahoma, N. Carolina, Indiana, Tennessee and Pennsylvania. We will be leaving on September 30th with many passengers starting from New York and some starting from Chicago. Dr. Dhiraj Shah, President of JAINA will be leading the Sangh.

This pilgrimage to Samet Shikhar is coinciding with Veerayatan's 25th Anniversary. At arrival in their cities, we will be received by Jain Sanghs of Delhi, Patna and Calcutta. We will also be visiting Pawapuri, Kundalpur, Rajgiri, Rajubalika, Nalanda

Viswavidhyapith, Bodhigaya and other near by sites of pilgrimage.

On many of the outings we will also be joined by Sangha from London and Nairobi, Kenya making this possibly for the first time, an International Sangh Yatra. During the three day celebration at Veerayatan, we will also have the opportunity to meet with the Prime Minister of India.

Travel arrangements to India and back are made by Jaya Travel and travelling within India has been organized by Veerayatan. We at JAINA are hoping that this will become a regular activity for us and more and more will join us. For more information call Dilip Shah at 215/561-0581.

## YJP Planning a Cruise

Young Jain Professionals are planning second annual meeting from Oct 23-26 to discuss issues facing Jain professionals. The convention with seminars and discussions is open to both married and single persons. Total cost for this Royal Caribbean cruise is \$382 (2 per cabin) and \$257 (4 to a cabin) Deadline for registration is August 24 and your deposit is fully refundable 60 days prior to the cruise. If you have topic ideas or are interested in speaking or moderating a discussion, contact Shilpa Shah at 404/321-4637 or [shilpashah@ibm.net](mailto:shilpashah@ibm.net). For any information about the Cruise, please contact Sunit Sanghrajka at 561/287-7995 or [sunit@bigfive.com](mailto:sunit@bigfive.com).

## Course on Jainism Offered

For the second year, a 5-week course with 1 credit hour was presented to students at the University of Dayton. The course was titled "JAINISM & NON-VIOLENCE" Prof Vinod Jain, Drs. Sulekh Jain, Jwala Prasad and Surendra Singhvi presented lectures covering Jain principles, history, practice, rituals, role of JAINA and affiliated centres in North America and vegetarianism. Students were given *Introduction to Jainism* by Dr. Bharat Shah as the text book. After viewing a 30 minute video "Be Healthy, Wealthy and Wise", many students took vows not to eat meat or reduce their consumption. Other Jain centres may consider sponsoring such course at their local universities and promote the Jain Philosophy.

## JAINA Executive Committee Meets in Detroit

A meeting of the Executive Committee of JAINA was held on July 4th in Detroit. After reading of the minutes of last meeting, treasurer's report was distributed. The tax returns for 1997 and financial report to the U.S. A.I.D were all filled on time.

President Dhiraj Shah reported that JAINA is financially strong and a mature organization. Since the March meeting in Philadelphia, he represented JAINA at the groundbreaking ceremony for a new temple in Atlanta and Miami. In Miami a 10-Acre site next door to the temple is available for possibly creating a Jain senior citizen housing complex if the local zoning laws allow it. JAINA sent brochures of Samet Shikhar Pilgrimage to all 8,000 Jain homes on our mailing list. Summer issue of JAIN DIGEST was published and had special appeals from JAINA for the Cyclone relief fund for coastal towns of Gujarat. JAINA will try to raise \$50,000 and sponsor two villages. He was pleased with the success of the first Pathshala Teacher's Convention in Boston that was attended by 85 teachers. He attended 8th Anniversary celebration of Cherry Hill Temple in New Jersey. In June, he met with the Counsel General

in New York and won a promise from him that at any future important functions at the New York consulate, JAINA members will be invited to attend. He met representative of the UN to see if JAINA can be granted the NGO (Non Governmental Organization) status. The UN representative was very impressed by JAINA'S affiliation with US A.I.D. and recognition by Red Cross. Our application will be considered at their next meeting. He represented JAINA at the ground breaking ceremony at Siddhachalam for their \$1.2 million dollar Bhojan Shala. Trustees of Siddhachalam passed a resolution granting a permanent trusteeship position to the president of JAINA. This is another evidence of close relationship between JAINA and Siddhachalam. He attended YJA Convention on July 2 and 3. JAINA paid \$1,800 for distribution of CD-ROM on Bhagwan Mahavir's life to all attendees.

Anop Vora was asked to look in to formation of Young Jain

*Continued on page 6*

*Continued from page 5*

Professionals as a committee of JAINA for age group of 21 and above.

Pravin Shah is preparing a website for JAINA, he will have it ready in three months. He is preparing for a teachers workshop during Thanksgiving weekend.

Jain Center of Southern California will organize US delegation of Doctors for Bidada Medical camp from January 5 to 25.

Devendra Peer presented a report on the preparation for 1999 Convention. He along with 2 other members of Convention Planning Board had planned to go to Toronto on 18th July to meet with Mr. Khamesra and others to discuss planning matters. He expects the Board will soon announce selection of the convention site.

A committee to plan 2600th Birth Anniversary celebration of Lord Mahavir in year 2001 was appointed under the chairmanship of Dr. Manoj Dharamsi. This celebration will be coordinated with worldwide events. JAINA may publish and distribute a book of Mahavir's message to every Jain family in North America. 6 Regional seminars are also planned.

### 1999 Convention Highlights...

- The Marriage Information Service of JAINA will organize a young adult's "Get Together" during the Tenth Biennial JAINA Convention. The purpose of this program is for young adults 21 and above to meet, acquaint, get to know each other, and make new friends. MIS is contemplating to serve candidates and their parents. If possible, a compiled data of all candidates will be given out in advance. Please watch for the December issue of JAIN DIGEST for more details on this and other information on Convention 99.
- JAINA has undertaken a project to publish a directory of Jain Centers in USA and Canada. The directory will include, for each Jain Center, a brief history, past activities and future plans, photographs of temples and other pertinent information. The directory will be published prior to the 1999 convention. All Jain centers are requested to forward pertinent information to Mr. Dinesh Chheda, 9 Johnson Avenue, West Caldwell, NJ 07006, or call him at 973/808-2661.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Jain Monk Passes Away

Acharya Sri Vijay Rajtilak Suriiji Maharaj passed away in Ahmedabad on August 12, 1998. Acharyaji was a great tapsavi. He had done 100+100+79 aymbill auli at a time. That's equivalent to 13,260 aymbills. Out of which he has done 6800 days of chauvair aymbill. He used to keep maunvrat for long stretches at a time.

### Animal Rights International

In 1985 a movement was started in the US to observe March 20 as Meat Out Day. The movement has become a world phenomena and accordingly Animal Rights International of Delhi took up a program to have four elephants going around the city. Elephants were chosen specially to signify that vegetarians can be mighty.

### Jain Samans Visit Thailand, Philippines, Australia and New Zeland

Saman Sthitpragya and Saman Siddhpragya, disciples of Anuvrat Anushastha Acharya Shri Mahapragya, completed a successful three-months tour of Thailand, Philippines, Australia and New Zealand. At the Bangkok University in Thailand, Samans spoke about the relevance of Anuvrat and the Practice of Preksha Meditation. In Manila, Philippines, they delivered a lecture at Indo-Phil (Birla Group) on Stress Management and provided information on the 50-Years Golden Celebration of the Anuvrat Movement. Various programs on Non-violence, Ecology, Jain Lifestyle, and Practice of Science of Living were presented in Australia at Victoria Immigration Detention Center, Victoria Multicultural Commission, and the Melbourne University. Over 40,000 Indians were exposed

to the message of Anuvrat and Preksha Meditation when the Samans were interviewed on the radio in Sydney. The topics of Indian Culture, Jain Philosophy, and Physical, Mental and Spiritual Health were addressed at various institutions in Auckland, New Zealand. Additionally, Samans had the opportunity to provide information about the significant contributions of Gurudev Shri Tulsi benefiting the mankind. Gurudev Shri Tulsi established the Jain Visva Bharati Institution and the Order of the Samans. Samans returned to India on July 4, 1998 and can be contacted at Adhyatma Sadhna Kendra, Mehrauli, New Delhi 110030, India. Telephone: 6802708, 6803678 and Fax: 6897962.



## Siddhachalam Diary

With the blessings of Acharya Sushil Kumarji Maharaj (Guruji), Siddhachalam is vibrant with activities. Lately, a great deal has been happening. We have had Bhoomipujan ceremonies held under the guidance of Muni Shri Jinchandraji Maharaj. We have also had several shibirs. The last shibir was a one week family shibir conducted by Munishri Kirtichandraji Maharaj. Pratistha Anniversary was celebrated on August 9, 1998.

There have been three Siddha Chakra Pujans during this summer. Quite apart from that, almost every week there is at least one Puja. The number of yattris coming to Siddhachalam has kept on increasing and the numbers increase very significantly over the week-ends.

This year during Paryushan, Siddhachalam offers an unique opportunity to participate in the celebration of Paryushan under the guidance of Muni shri Jinchandraji Maharaj.

Siddhachalam's Newsletters are sent to everyone in North America. To communicate better, we have a website at [www.imjm.org](http://www.imjm.org). This Web Page has several features, including recitals of Namokar Mantra as well as Manglik by Guruji. You can, if you so wish, download the sound files. The Web page also has Forth Coming Events and News Desk. Effort is made to up-date these and again we shall strive to improve. E-Mail address is: [siddhachalam@cpatch.com](mailto:siddhachalam@cpatch.com).

Come personally to Siddhachalam. It is the only Jain Tirth outside of India. You can stay overnight if you wish. Temple is open for you. Kitchen is open 365 days of the year. It is a good idea to phone before coming if you want to stay overnight - there are times, we are fully booked.

### Directions

Siddhachalam is in Blairstown, in New Jersey - North West part of New Jersey, very close to the Poconos in PA. Take Exit 12 on Route 80. Follow Blairstown sign. Make first right hand turn on Silver Lake Road. Proceed for 1.3 miles on Silver Lake Rd. Then make a left hand turn on Cooke Road to proceed on Cooke Road. Then make a right hand turn at the stop sign - (at the T Junction). Fourth property on your left hand side is Siddhachalam. Please drive very carefully and slowly. There are a lot of deer and other animals.

### Siddhachalam's Building project and Building Fund

Target: \$1,200,000. Highlights: With the recent approval of our Site Plan Application, the building Project for a new Bhojanshala has started to roll and is gathering momentum. Your donation will give it the necessary energy to keep moving to an early and successful completion.

### Naming of the Bhojanshala Boli Opens at \$51,000 and continues

We started with the Boli for the naming of the Bhojanshala on Mahavir Jayanti celebration on April 26, 1998. The first bid of \$ 51,000.00 from Rohitbhai Shah, Surendrabhai Shah and Vijaybhai Shah, all of Four Points Hotels - Sheraton was a very auspicious beginning. The Boli continues and Aadesh shall be given only after ample opportunity is given to the entire community all over North America and elsewhere to participate and raise the bidding higher and higher..A Building Fund Account has been set up as a separate account.

### Picture Gallery Project

A Picture Gallery Project has just been initiated as part of the Building Fund drive. The Picture Gallery will allow a donor to have a Photograph of a loved one placed permanently in the Picture Gallery which will be set up in the new Dining Room. The donation amount is \$ 1,101.00.

The Pictures to be displayed permanently in the Gallery should be 8 inches by 10 inches. Please send in a duplicate of the original negative and we shall look after the rest. The pictures will be professionally framed.

### More Ceremonies in the coming months

There will be other ceremonies to follow and many more opportunities to participate and to contribute to the Building Fund. It is hoped that the foundation stone ceremony shall take place on October 4, 1998, on Ahimsa and Kshamapana Day which we have been celebrating since past many many years together with JAINA.

Please call Pandit Mauji Ramji or Lahar Chandji at Siddhachalam (908/362-9793) for more details of the Picture Gallery Project, for Tithi funds and Jiva Daya and Bhojanshala Building Fund. Our fax number is 908/362-9649.

*Siddhachalam expresses very sincere thanks to JAINA for the space on the pages of JAIN DIGEST to bring you an update on activities and future plans at Siddhachalam.*

## Jain Meditation International Center

Gurudev Chitrabhanu was invited to speak at the Monmouth Center for World Religions in Middletown, N.J. His talk on "Jain Tradition Gives Nonviolence A Place" was well received by the audience. He remarked that in 1971, the idea that non-violence and vegetarianism go hand in hand was unknown to most people. Now there are about 12 million Americans who have adopted vegetarianism, and their numbers are growing every day.

## Canada

*Dr. Mahendra Mehta, Regional Editor*

## Edmonton, Alberta

The Buddhist Blessing Ceremony called 'We Care All' took place in Edmonton on August 1<sup>st</sup> and over 1,000 people including 23 faith groups participated. The Jain Sangh of Alberta was represented as one of the 23 faith groups. Mr. J.V. Mehta contributed an article on 'Jainism' in the souvenir for the occasion.

The Jains of Alberta participated in the NAIN 98 conference (North American Interfaith Network). Jasvant Mehta offered Jain prayer in one of the lecture sessions and led a workshop titled: "Development of a Spiritual Center in a Post Secondary Institution".

For the future programs, a picnic is organized for August 16<sup>th</sup>, Samvatsari Pratikraman on August 28<sup>th</sup> and Swamivatsalya puja and meal for September 13<sup>th</sup>.

The Jain Society of Alberta collected and remitted \$2,000 for JAINA's Cyclone Relief Fund.

## Hamilton, Ontario

The 13<sup>th</sup> Arhum Yoga Camp was organized in the beautiful Loretto Center overlooking Niagra Falls in Ontario during the long weekend of August 1-3. The Arhum Yoga Camp was inspired and initiated by Acharyaji Sushilmuniji. The program consisted of Yoga subjects such as Surya Namaskar, various Asanas and yogic thoughts, edicts & practices prescribed by Rishi Patanjali. The whole Yoga program was conducted by Bakul Soneji from Sarthi Yoga Foundation of Irvine, California.

There were daily talks by Prof. Joseph O'Connell, Dr. Tina-Marie Jones and Dr. Kay Koppedrayer. These were followed by lively participation from the audience. All of the 45 registrants thoroughly enjoyed the camp and had great words of praise for Mrs. Leela Gudka, her children and hus-

band, who single-handedly organized the camp with great success.

The International Mahavir Jain Mission had their annual picnic on Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup> at Niagara Glen in Niagara Falls. The plans are afoot for IMJM's Jain Pilgrimage Tour to India in 1999. Look for an announcement in a future issue of JAIN DIGEST.

## Toronto, Ont

The Young Jains of Toronto reports a very successful participation in the YJA Convention in Houston, last month. 24 delegates, the largest so far and partly subsidized by the Jain Society of Toronto, went to Texas and took active part in the deliberations of the Convention.

On July 25<sup>th</sup> the youth organized the second religious event of the year. Ms. Irena Upenikas spoke on 'Yoga & Meditation' and Dr. Vastupal Parikh spoke on 'Jainism & the 21<sup>st</sup> Century'. There was a lively debate on 'Will a new Jain Temple in Toronto bring more unity amongst the Jains of Toronto'. There were numerous views and opinions.

Many youths participated in the annual Jain Society picnic and also had their annual elections. A slate of 25 members were elected and the Co-Chairs for 1998-99 are Seema Jain & Amit Shanghavi. Lastly, the YJT is organising a camp in September in north of Toronto to discuss issues such as communications building, leadership, self-esteem and such youth related subjects.

The Executive Committee of Jain Society of Toronto has chalked out a very busy schedule of summer activities consisting of Paryushan Parva, Daslaxana Parva, Sibirs, Camps, Picnic and many more. Sunandaben Vohra gave a weeklong series of discourses based on Panyas Muni's 'Atma-uthan' beginning July 7<sup>th</sup>. The talks were attended by a core group of 20 during weekdays and

over 100 during weekend.

Pandit Dhirajlal Mehta came to Jain Center on July 15<sup>th</sup> and conducted very interesting and educational class on Tattvarth Sutra for one week. He had taught Chapters 1, 2 & 3 in 1997 and continues with 4, 5 & 6. He has promised to come to Toronto in 1999 to finish Chapters 8, 9 & 10.

Panditji's extensive knowledge of scriptures, his years of experience teaching novice Sadhvis and Sadhujis, mumukshus and other aspirants and his entertaining style of teaching with anecdotes and stories endeared him to all those who came to listen and learn from him.

Every evening, he sang and explained from the Anandganji Muniji's Anthology of 24 Tirthakars' lives. Full audience in the main hall was a testimony to Panditji's popularity.

Samanjis Shruta Pragna & Ashwani Pragna conducted a weekend sibir on Preksha Dhyana, Yoga, Relaxation Techniques and Stress Management at Jain Center. The sibir was well attended.

The Jain Society's annual picnic was organized on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> and over 300 members attended. The transient downpour in the afternoon dampened our apparel but not our spirits. We all enjoyed socializing, games, food and weather (most of it).

The preparations for 2600<sup>th</sup> birth celebrations of Bhagwan Mahavir in the year 2001 have started by JAINA. The year 2001 will also witness the centennial remembrances for Shrimad Rajchandra and Virchand Raghvi Gandhi who first brought Bhagwan Mahavir's message to North America in 1893. Prakash Mody, a member of Jain Society and COROS (Collector of Religion on Stamps Society) of North America is urging Indian Department of Posts to issue commemorative stamps for these momentous events.



## Midwest

Manubhai Doshi, Regional Editor

### Detroit

The Jain Society of Greater Detroit successfully completed a historic Pratishtha Mahotsav ceremony of their newly constructed temple during the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. The ten day celebration started on June 27 with Kumbh Sthapan, Akhand Deepak Sthapan, Patla Pujan (Nav Grah), Asthamagal & Dash Dighpal, Ten Dikpal & Navgraha Pujan and 108 Parshvanath Pujan. This was followed by Shri Bhaktamar Pujan, Snatra Pujans, Shri Parsvanath Panchkalyanak Pujan, Siddhchakra Pujan, Cultural Program, 18 Abhisheks, Indra Mahotsav & Kumarpal Raja Aarti. On July 5<sup>th</sup>, the Pratishtha

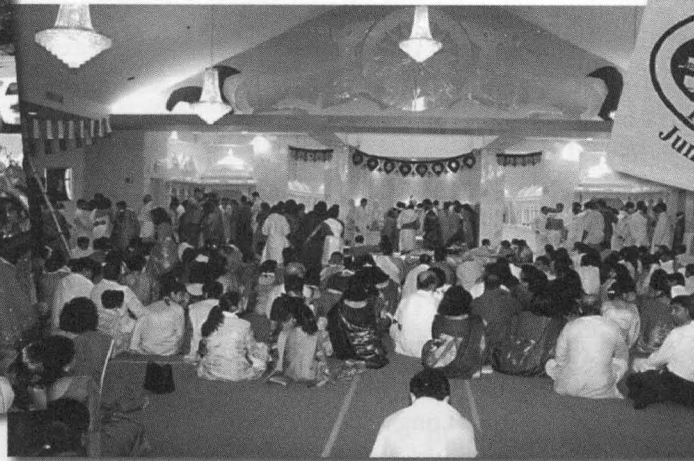
one's attention is immediately focused on the beautiful Gabhara and the tranquility of the surroundings. The atmosphere is so peaceful that the visitor is immediately engrossed in spiritual and religious thoughts. The construction of this temple will ensure the continuity of the practice of Jainism in this country for many generations to come.

All pratishtha vidhis, pujas and Bhavnas were performed by Shri Narendrabhai Nandu and his group including his son Kayvan. Narendrabhai is from Bombay and they have performed many successful pratishtha celebrations in India. Their enthusiastic singing, music and dancing inspired everyone to open their hearts and

Rackowski, Farmington Hills Mayor Aldo Vignozzi, Consulate General J. C. Sharma, JAINA President Dr. Dhirubhai Shah and representatives of the Indian Ambassador Mr. Naresh Chandra.

Letters of best wishes were received from many prominent dignitaries including the President of India Mr. K.K. Narayanan, The President of the United States Mr. Bill Clinton and Governor John Engler of Michigan.

On Pratishtha day of July 5<sup>th</sup>, the celebration started with a colorful and a spectacular procession. There were nine beautiful floats decorated with various religious themes and the sun drenched



day, began with Procession (Rath Yatra) and Pratishtha Mahotsav followed by Laghu Shanti Pujan. On July 6, the ceremony was completed with Temple Dwar Opening.

This was a dream come true for the members of the Jain Society of Greater Detroit who have been working tirelessly for the last 7 years to complete the construction of this magnificent temple. Many members had tears of joy in their eyes upon entering the temple on various occasions. The architectural details of this Daherasar reminds one of similar designs in India - beautifully carved marble murtis, marble shikhar, marble niches, bhamti and dome. Upon entering the spacious prayer hall,

enabled the society to raise close to 2 million dollars in gheeboli and other donations.

Gurrudev Chitrabhanuji, Muni Shri Jinchandraji, Bhattarak Shri Devendrakirtiji, Muni Shri Amrenderji, Sadhvi Shri Subhamji, Samani Shri Malli Pratibha and Pratibha Pragya all were present to participate in this memorable occasion and to bless our Sangh. Religious scholars Smt. Sunandaben Vohra, Smt. Tarlaben Doshi, Shri Kiranbhai Parikh, Pandit Dhirajlal Mehta, Dr. Hukamchand Bharil gave religious discourses. The dignitaries present during the Mahotsav included Congressman Knollenberg, Congressman Kildee, State Representative Andrew

morning was filled with joyous members singing and dancing to the tune of devotional religious songs. Glamour and glory were further added to the Rath - Yatra procession by 108 beautifully dressed ladies carrying nicely decorated kalash on their heads. After the Procession, ceremony relating to the pratishtha was performed in the presence of Jain Munis and Shamanji reciting holy mantras prescribed in the religious scriptures and inviting, soliciting and praying tirthankars to imbibe their radiance, brilliance and divinity into their respective murtis for worship by the devotees to transform them from the ordinary to the supreme.

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**Northeast***Vinay Vakani, Regional Editor***Essex Fells, NJ**

Jain Center of New Jersey (JCNJ) has been very busy this summer. JCNJ had many Jain scholars visiting for religious ceremony or Swadhayay.

A Siddhachakrapujan by Babubhai Kadiwala and Padmavatevipujan by Rajendra Dalal were performed at the temple. Muni Jinchandraji and Saman Shrutpragnaji gave two lectures each, and Kiranbhai Parekh conducted Swadhyaya for three weeks and will come back for one more week later this summer. The High School Graduating Class kept up with JCNJ tradition and performed Pooja to celebrate their graduation. Pathshala classes were conducted until the summer break and will start again in the fall.

Paryushana Parva was celebrated under the guidance of Pandit Dhirajbhai Mehta. He gave discourses on Kalpa Sutra in the morning and Paryushana Na Kartavyo/Ganadharvad in the evening. The attendance at both times was plentiful. A Snatra Pooja was performed everyday during Paryushana by brothers Virendra C. Shah and Kirti C. Shah. Angies were done on all three Pratimas of Rishabhadev, Parshwanath and Mahavirswami every evening by Niranjana Shah. Mahavir Jayanti was celebrated on Sunday with great enthusiasm in which over 2,000 local Jains participated during the Swapna Darshan ceremony. This year JCNJ had the highest number of Atthai Tapasvies- 56 to be exact with many young people participating in this difficult endeavor.

**New York, NY**

Jain Study Circle, Inc. held its quarterly meeting in Forest Hills residence of the Nahar family on August 6, 1998. After conducting certain official business related to projects completed or in progress, funding and election of new officers for the organization, the participants engaged in a

serious discussion on the topic of Char Kashays (Four Passions). How these four passions- Krodh (anger), Maan (pride), Maya (deceit) and Lobh (greed) control one's destiny and Samyam (restraint) is necessary to combat these passions- these were the points brought out during the discussion. Jain Study Circle publishes Jain Study Circular, which is sent to approximately 6000 Jains throughout North America. Jain Study Circle has also published the *Studies in Jainism* series of books that the Jain community has found very useful. Jain Study Circle has recently opened its website on internet. Jain Study Circle holds quarterly meetings in the New York Metropolitan area in which the participants discuss topics on Jain principles and precepts. If you would like to attend, please call 718/699-4653 or visit JSC web site at [www.jainstudy.org](http://www.jainstudy.org).

**Jain Center of America, (New York)**

Jain Center of America (JCA) in New York City celebrated Paryushana Parva from August 19 through August 26, 1998 with great enthusiasm and very active participation of its members living New York city and Long Island. There were daily discourses by Kiranbhai Parekh and Muni Roopchandji at the Ithaca Street Temple and at Francis Lewis High School. JCA also celebrated Mahavir Jayanti on Sunday August 23, 1998. Despite the uncomfortable heat in the school gymnasium, the Swapna Darshan ceremony was attended by a large gathering and a huge sum of money was raised at this occasion. The organizers were delighted by the turnout and the generous contributions by the attendees. At the appropriate time, Kiranbhai Shah read the Mahavir Janma segment from the sacred book of Kalpa-Sutra. Dr. Dilip Mukhtyar, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, made a detailed presentation of the planned construction of the new temple on outskirts of

New York City and made a persuasive appeal for contribution for the Temple Construction Fund. This year JCA had 50 Atthais—a record for JCA—with many young people participating in this extremely difficult Tapasya. A large number of areas Jains participated in Samvatsari Pratikraman and asked forgiveness—Michhami Dukkadam!—from each other.

JCA will celebrate the Dash Lakshana Parva of the Digamber Tradition from August 27, through September 5, 1998 under the guidance of Bhuwankeerti Bhattarakji.

Earlier in the summer, JCA organized a Health Camp at the Ithaca Street Temple. At this camp, a team of doctors provided medical consultation and services such as checking of blood pressure, cardiogram, mammogram etc. for about 70 participants. A Meditation Camp was also organized by JCA at Sidhachalam. A Jain Youth Camp was organized on Long Island under the guidance of Gurudev Chitrabhanuji in which about 125 young people participated.

*Continued from page 9*

The society had formed a Pratishta committee with over 20 subcommittees and 300 volunteers to plan, prepare and execute a variety of tasks to complete the celebration of this Mahotsav. This was truly a sincere and devoted team effort where everyone contributed to the best of their abilities to ensure a safe and successful program. The volunteers of other Jain Sanghs including The Jain Society of Metropolitan Chicago, Jain Society of Toronto, Jain Society of Cincinnati/Dayton, Jain Society of New



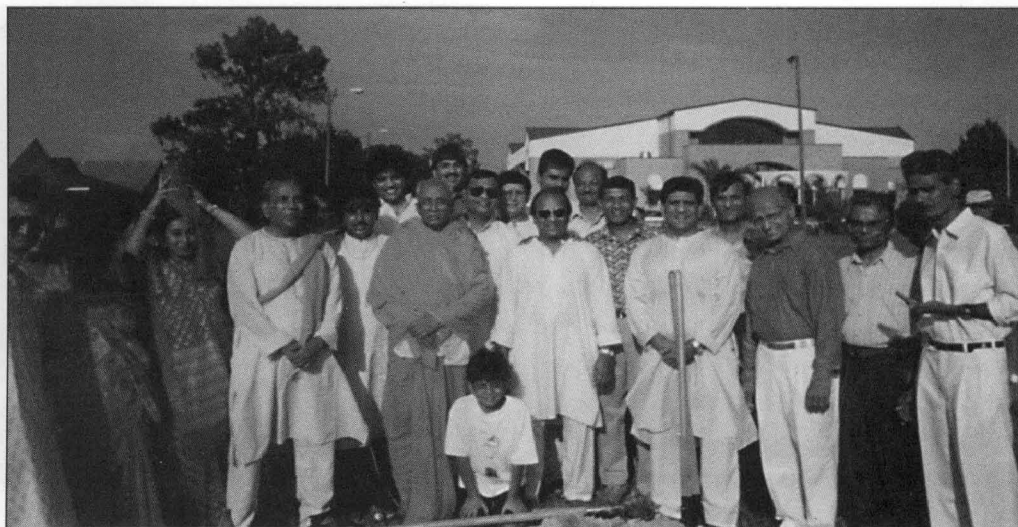
## Southeast

*Surendra Shah, Regional Editor*

### Tampa, Florida

An impressive bhoomi poojan ceremony was performed on July 3, 1998 on a newly acquired land located close to India Culture Center and Hindu Temple at Tampa, Florida. The land was generously donated by Philonthropist couple Drs. Kiran and Pallavi Patel of Tampa, Florida. A special message greeting this occasion was received from Dr. Dhiraj Shah, President of JAINA. An eminent and celebrated Jain Scholar Shri Chimanbhai T. Modi from India conducted the elaborate ceremony in a very dignified way. All committee members, office bearers and members of the community with their families participated actively in the pooja and this most joyous occasion.

After the ceremony, Swamivatsalya was sponsored by the Jain Society of Tampa Bay. Mr. Chetan Shah, President of the Society thanked all participants and the members of the committee for their dedication. Special thanks were conveyed to Drs. Kiran and Pallavi Patel.



*Tampa community members at the ground-breaking ceremony on July 3, 1998.*

Besides temple, the Jain Center will consist of Prayer Hall, Pathshala, Library, Dining hall and visitors room. Dr. Dipak Shah has agreed to head the entire temple project which is planned to be completed by the year 2000. If you would like to contribute to this noble cause, please contact Chetan Shah 813/781-8036; Dr. Dilip A. Mehta 813/787-8033 or Hasmukh M. Shah at 813/376-7290.

### Miami, Florida

At Jain Center of South Florida Paryushana Parva will be celebrated in the presence of Samani Melli Pragya and Samani Pratibha Pragya. Dr. Bharill visited the center and presented discourses on selected stanzas from Samaysar and Navakar mantra.

### Atlanta, Georgia

During the month of July, Kiranbhai Parekh and Taralaben Doshi visited the center. The Paryushana Parva is being celebrated in the presence of Shramans Shri Shrut Pragna and Shri Aswani Pragna. The

weekend shibir is planned during the weekend following the Paryushana Parva. Panch Kalyanak Puja was performed on August 22 and Mahavir Jayanti was celebrated the following day.

### Clarksville, Tennessee

The Jain Samaj has planned an active program for Paryushana Parva. The Kalpasutra will be read and the tapes of Muni Shri Jinchandrajii will be played. Swamivatsalya and Tapasvi recognition is planned on Sunday, August 30. Shramans Shri Shrut Pragna and Shri Aswani Pragna will visit September 11-13 and will give Vyakhyanas.

### Cary, North Carolina

The Jain Study Center of North Carolina, in cooperation with the federation of JAINA, will conduct a workshop for Pathshala teachers and other interested adults. The workshop will be conducted over the Thanksgiving holidays, November 26 through November 29. More details are on page 22 of this issue.

Jersey and JAINA organization also helped in many different ways. Local Organizations including Swaminarayan Satsang Mandal of BAPS, Hindu Temple of Canton, Gujarati Samaj of Detroit and Charotar Patidar Samaj also helped for the common religious and community cause.

Last but not the least, the Jain society of Greater Detroit is grateful to everyone for their support and wishes to offer Micchami Dukkadam if anyone's feeling was hurt during the event.

## Southwest

*Jadavji Kenia, Regional Editor*

### North Texas (Dallas area)

Over summer, many speakers visited our center. Dr. Bharill who covered Nirjaradhikar (a chapter from Samaysar Sutra). Dhirajbhai Mehta came in mid-June and gave discourses based on the first two chapters of the Tattvarth Sutra covering nature of Atma and understanding of Tatvas. He also conducted a camp in Waco at Kirit/Pramila Daftary's residence. His topic there was "Samyaktva Ni Sazzi." Several people from Waco, Dallas, Houston and Temple, TX took advantage of Dhirajbhai's knowledge and his teaching style of simplifying complex subjects. Sunandaben Vohra joined us in mid-July. Her discourses were based on a book "Atma Utthan No Payo" by Param Pujya Sanyasi Bhandarkar Vijayji Ganivarya." There was also a picnic at an area lake in July organized by young adult members. Rashmi Lalan, our Pathshala teacher for younger children represented this society at the Pathshala Teachers Conference in Boston on May 23-24 and brought back some valuable information.

About 40 Jain Youth attended the YJA Convention in Houston on July 4th. Some of the younger members conducted a workshop on Awakening Namokar Mantra within you dealing with colors and sounds based on a book "Song of the Soul" by Acharya SushilKumarji. As usual Jain Society sponsored their participation by contributing about half of their expenses.

JSNT contact is president Pradeep Shah at 972/867-6255.

### Houston, Texas

During May we had a "Satavadhani" program by Sadhvi Subhamji, which was a great success. In early June we had a series of lectures by Pandit Dhirajlal Mehta. Topic of his lectures was "Tattvarth Sutra" as created by Acharya Umaswatiji Maharaj about two thousand years ago. He explained the fundamentals of Jainism in depth with



*Team-building exercises at the YJA Convention, held in Houston. See page 15 for more details.*

his simple style and illustrations which were thought provoking.

This was followed by a series of lectures by Sunandaben Vohra. Her way of explaining details is well known to our members. She enlightened us with her deep knowledge of religious topics.

Finally the long awaited YJA convention took place at Del Lago convention center in Conroe about 40 miles north of Houston. The entire convention was organized by a handful of young adults from Houston YJA committee with some help and guidance from the national YJA. Refer to YJA section in this issue for detailed report. All in all the convention was a great success. We congratulate the Houston YJA convention committee on a convention well done. JSH contact is president Jitendra Shah at 281/550-3155.

### Tulsa, OK

We are moving ahead to build our Derasar and the Jain Center. We have approved a plan from the board of trustees. We will submit an application to the city of Tulsa for a building permit soon. Hopefully we can start some preliminary activity this year like a Bhoomi Pujan before we lay down the foundation. Sunandaben Vohra visited Tulsa from July 21-23. We all en-

joyed her Satsang. She presented everything in a simple and easy to understand manner.

We will celebrate Paryusan Parva from August 19 to 26 including Swapana ceremony on Saturday, August 22. We will celebrate our current Derasar's 5th Anniversary on Sept 5. Saman shri Shrutprajna and Aswiniprajna will visit Tulsa from November 4-11.

We collected \$2,401 for Cyclone Relief Fund for victims in Gujarat, in response to JAINA's call for help.

Tulsa Jain Sangh contact is Kanti Shah at 918/369-3163.

### Phoenix, AZ

Several Phoenix Jain youth attended the YJA convention held in Houston, Texas during the 4th of July weekend.

This year two Pathshala teachers from our area attended JAINA Pathshala Teachers Conference during Memorial Day Weekend in BOSTON. Level 3 Pathshala material was prepared by the Phoenix Pathshala teachers and presented in the conference. The material and our presentation were well received.

During this quarter the greater Phoenix Jain Samaj had Dharma labh from the following scholars and dignitaries:

*Continued on page 29*

## West

*Chandrakant Parekh, Regional Editor*

### Los Angeles, CA

Jain Center of Southern California (JCSC) celebrated the 10th anniversary of the inauguration of the Jain Bhavan on Sunday, July 12. Following the Dhvaj ceremony, the Siddhachakra Pujan was performed by Dharmanuragi Narendrabhai along with his wife Damayantiben, his son Kaivan, Krishnakant Somani (musician), Gangaram Gajjar (benjomaster), and Devidas Vyas (tabla). Sadhvi Shilapiji of Veerayatan, a popular, admired dignitary amongst youths, visited JCSC on July 6 and 7. Pujya Atmanandaji (Dr. Soneji) presented a series of lectures from July 21 to August 2 and conducted shibirs for adults and children. Pujya Sunandaben will be at JCSC from August 7 to 14. Paryushan Parva will be celebrated under the direction of Gurudev Chitrabhanuji from August 19 to 27, and the Dashlaxna Parva from August 27 to September 5 will be guided by Pandit Dhirajlal Mehta.

Jain Center Youth Council (JCYC) celebrated the completion of the 1997-1998 Pathshala program on Sunday, June 21. Students who had done well throughout the year and the final test were awarded gift certificates. Largest number of entries, 101 out of a total of 123, in the 1998 JAINA National Essay Competition were submitted by JCYC which were also judged locally by Satin Sheth, Biren Mehta, Mona Vadecha and Seema Mehta. First place local winners in various age groups included Neil Solanki (8-10 years), Michelle Gandhi (11-12 years), Bansari Shah (13-14 years) and Maulik Shah (15 years and over).

Sailes Jain, Virendra Shah, Vijay Sheth, Dhiraj Dedhia, Chetna Savla, Smita Doshi, Amita Desai, Shayna Parekh, and Pallavi Gala attended JAINA Pathshala Teachers' Conference held in Boston. A most impressive presentation was made by Smita Doshi

and Amita Desai who demonstrated innovative, creative and fun methods of teaching complex Jain principles using common household items. A two-hour session on "Roles and Responsibilities of Pathshala Coordinators" chaired by Sailes Jain discussed various topics including curriculum, staffing, communication, extra curricular activities and others as important elements for a successful Pathshala program.

Planning for the expansion of the Jain Center is well under way and the facilities will include a religious complex with Derasar and Gyan Mandir (JAINA National Library), a cultural complex with a large meeting hall, the wooden replica of the Palitana temple, a museum and underground parking, and an Atma Sadhana Kendra complex for Swadhaya and Pathshala activities.

### San Francisco, CA

With a great sense of pride and achievement, Jain Center of Northern California (JCNC) organized the Shila Nyas ceremony for the Jain Bhawan on June 14. The ceremony was performed under the direction of H. H. Bhattarak Devendrakirti and over 600 people attended the event. Sadhvi Subhamji and Shri Chimanbhai Modi were also invited to grace the event. The two-day event began on June 13 with a bhavna at the site led by Kirit and Pradip Bavishi and a puja ceremony was organized on June 14. Many local dignitaries were present to bless the event. On a continuing note, all the community members are requested to support the Jain Bhavan project and donate generously towards its completion.

Shri Chimanbhai Modi and Pandit Dhirajlal Mehta were invited during the month of June and each one presented a one week's series of lectures. A family picnic was organized at Lake Elizabeth Park in Fremont on July 18. Kiranbhai Parekh from

Bombay will be with JCNC during the month of July to present a series of lectures for one week.

Paryushan Parva is scheduled to be celebrated from August 19 to 26 and will conclude with a Samuh Parna on August 27. Das Lakshana Parva will be celebrated from August 27 to September 5. Tapasvi bahuman is scheduled For September 12 and the Mahavir Nirvana will be celebrated on October 24. Detailed information about various activities and events planned by JCNC, including schedules, locations and directions are available on the Internet website at [www.jcnc.org](http://www.jcnc.org). For further details, please contact Jashwant Shah at 510/475-7882 for JCNC, and Parveen Jain at 408/559-6987 for Jain Bhavan information.

### Sacramento, CA

Jain Center of Greater Sacramento (JCGS) is blessed with the presence of two devoted Samanijis - Madhur Pragyaaji and Prasan Pragyaaji. Both of the Samnijis are very learned and give Pravachans every Wednesdays and Sundays. About 25 families take part in these gatherings. JCGS celebrated the 72nd birthday of Mahapragyaaji who is in charge of a group of Samanji and Samaniji in Ladaun, Rajasthan. Samniji spoke about the pious life of Acharya Mahapragyaaji who has dedicated his entire life to the Jain religion. JCGS collected donations and contributed them to the Jain Center of Northern California for the construction of the Jain Temple in Milpitas. Under the guidance of Saminijis, JCGS will celebrate Paryushan and Das Lakshana Parvas during the month of August. For further information please contact Jagdish Shah at 916/685-4716 or Naresh Jain at 916/488-2601.



## Scholar Visitation Committee

Scholar Visitation Committee invited many scholars from India to assist Jain Centers in North America to celebrate Paryushan parva and Dashlaxana parva. Many of our local scholars also assisted during these auspicious days. Any one or any center interested in hosting any particular scholar should contact Mr. Nirmal Dosi at 732/390-0296.

## Jiv Daya Committee

Jiv Daya Committee has decided to financially support a group known as AHIMSA in Bombay. The group is headed by Dr. Satnam Ahuja, they are highly dedicated and organized. They have rescued 12 dancing bears and have been working on a sanctuary for them. They have found a land outside Bombay and they will take care of bears daily. Our target is to collect US\$25,000.00. For further information on this group please fax 972-538-9375. Please send your donation for this worthy cause to Jiv Daya Committee at R.N. Shah, 1718 E Jeter Rd, Bartonville, TX 76226.

## JAINA Patron Program

JAINA initiated a Patron Program last year and many of you have supported it enthusiastically. We would like you to know that your financial help has produced solid results. Here is a short summary of our achievements:

- Regular publication of Jaina Focus and Jain Digest.
- Prompt administration through Executive Director.
- Cyclone Relief Fund
- Pilgrimage to Samet Shikhar
- Support to YJA
- Support to Boston Pathshala Convention
- Support to Regional YJA Convention
- Distribution of religious CD ROMS to Jain Centers
- Life of Mahavir's CD ROM to all attendees of Houston YJA Convention
- Essay Contest for Jain youth and adults.

All this would not have been possible without your financial support. We are very grateful to you. Please send your 1998-99 contribution of \$251 to:

**USA**  
(make check payable  
to JAINA)

Anop R. Vora  
JAINA Patron Program Coordinator  
One Robin Drive  
Rochester, NY 14618

**Canada**  
(make check payable  
to S.S. Jain Foundation)

S.S. Jain Foundation  
276 Carlaw Ave, Unit 200  
Toronto, ONT M4M 3L1

## World Community Service Committee

### *JAINA adopts two villages*

JAINA has once again rushed to help the victims of the worst cyclone of the century which devastated the west coast of India. Thousands are reported dead and many are without shelter and food. So many of them have lost family members, farms, livestock, the roof over their head and everything they had. Parts of Kutch district have plunged into darkness. Till this day, there is no power to draw and supply drinking water. The wind blowing at 140 km/hr has demolished whatever came in its route. Kandala port and nearby 38 villages are very badly affected.

JAINA has already distributed thousands of pounds of clothes to the needy. WCS of Federation of JAINA has launched a Gujarat and Rajasthan Cyclone Relief Fund to raise the fund to help victims of the devastating midnight cyclone. Till today's date we have received more than \$37,249 from donors. Our target is \$55,000.

Now, JAINA is joining hands with Vivekanand Research and Training Institute and has taken responsibility to rehabilitate two villages, Ragha and Shekhadia, a few miles away from Kandala. JAINA handed over the first installment of \$25,000 to Vivekanand's representative via Mafatkaka, a well known philanthropist.

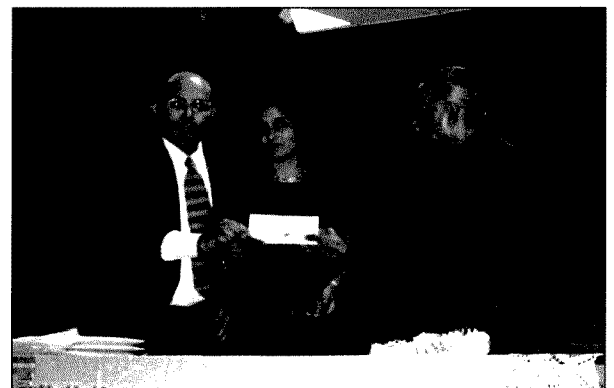
JAINA is continuing its fund raising efforts. Names of the donors for this project will be published in the December issue of JAIN DIGEST. Please send your tax-deductible contribution to:

**USA**  
(make check payable  
to JAINA)

Bachubhai Ajmera  
1502 University Blvd  
Langeley Park, MD 20783

**Canada**  
(make check payable  
to S.S. Jain Foundation)

S.S. Jain Foundation  
276 Carlaw Ave, Unit 200  
Toronto, ONT M4M 3L1



*JAINA donates \$25,000 to the Shree Vivekanand Research and Training Institute for the adoption of two villages harmed by the recent cyclone.*

*From left to right: Dr. Dhiraj Shah, JAINA President; Kalpana Bhandari, Shree Vivekanand Research and Training Institute and Mafatlal Mehta, well-known philanthropist.*

# YOUNG Minds

YOUNG JAINS OF AMERICA

## 725 North American Young Jains Meet in Houston for the Third Biennial Young Jains of America Convention

by Gaurav Kapadia & Samir Sanghani

Young Jains of America (YJA) and the Houston YJA Convention Committee (HYJACC) are pleased to announce the successful completion of the largest ever youth only gathering of Jains in North America. The conference took place from July 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> at the Del Lago Resort and Conference Center near Houston. The Third Biennial YJA Convention allowed the younger generation of Jains in North America to explore their religious and moral ideas, values, and beliefs. The conference also allowed the participants to share the unique experiences encountered while practicing a Jain lifestyle within the American culture. As an excellent opportunity to address the issues that face the current generation of youth, the YJA Convention allowed Jainism to continue and grow into the next century.

Under the theme, "Jainism – Back to Basics", the fundamental principles of the religion and contemporary issues were explored and expanded upon through a variety of exciting session formats, including lectures by experienced guest speakers, workshops, seminars, and small group discussions that allowed participation from

the attendees. The distinguished keynote speakers Shri Gurudev Chitrabhanuji, Balabhadraji (Bruce Costain), Dr. Dhiraj Shah, Sadhvi Shilapiji, Dr. Benjamin Zephaniah, Dr. Cromwell Crawford and Professor Janice Leoshko, together represent an incredible amount of Jain religious knowledge and philosophical insight. In addition, numerous other Jain speakers and educators from around the country conducted the convention workshops and moderate participant open discussions. This year's convention hosted 725 participants, the largest group of young Jains ever gathered.

In addition to educational seminars and discussions, there were many opportunities for social interaction at the convention. A social activity was planned for each night of the convention. On Thursday night, there were ice-breaker activities that were used to introduce the convention participants to one another. Then, on Friday night, there was a garba/raas, and on Saturday, there was a formal dinner and dance. These activities allowed the participants to relax after a full day of activities and gave them the opportunity to get to know individuals from all corners of the continent.

## YJA Executive Board Elections

Young Jains of America recently concluded its election process for positions on the executive board. Following the national convention in Houston, applications were received that included a personal résumé highlighting Jain activities and other leadership involvement. Applicants were also asked to submit an essay entitled, *How I can Lead YJA into the Next Millenium*. Board members also interviewed applicants to evaluate interest and commitment. All Regional Coordinator and General Coordinator positions were up for election.

The following youth were selected to serve on the 1998-1999 YJA Executive Board:

Mid-Atlantic	South	Southeast	West
Naishadh Shah	Timir Chheda	Ameet Shah	Neal Shah
Neha Vagadia		Heerain Shah	Mona Vadecha

We thank all the youth who applied and hope that those not selected will continue to work with their communities and are encouraged to reapply in the future. The new YJA board looks forward to continuing the successful tradition of the organization in promoting Jainism to youth in North America.

## The YJA Convention: A Weekend to Remember

by Rakhee Jain

When I entered the bustling lobby swarmed with eager faces anxiously anticipating the upcoming events that the weekend at the 1998 YJA convention had promised, I was well aware that I did not consider myself to be a follower of the Jain religion regardless of the fact that my entire family lineage had been adamant disciples of Jainism. At the Jain temple, Mummy admired those teenagers who completed "athai". My grandparents practiced the strict Jain dietary regimes and refused to eat after sunset. Year after year, I relentlessly did pratikraman while not having any earthly clue as to how sitting for three strenuous hours with one knee slightly raised and a handkerchief over my mouth followed by the declaration of "Michchhami Dukkadam" would help me repent my sins. I was only aware of the slow constant ticking of the clock as I uncomfortably adjusted the position of my sleepy legs and dozed off into daydreams while Mummy silently reprimanded my restlessness with bold glances and disapproving nods. The practices of Jainism did not ever come of any shock to me. Probably at the very moment I learned to speak, my Dadima (grandmother) taught me how to clasp my hands together into a lotus bud and chant the Namokar Mantra three times every night before I went to bed. I was at the point in which implementation of the closely knit Indian culture and the ritualistic practice of the Jain religion in my life by my elders did not suffice in allowing me to claim the Jain religion as my own.

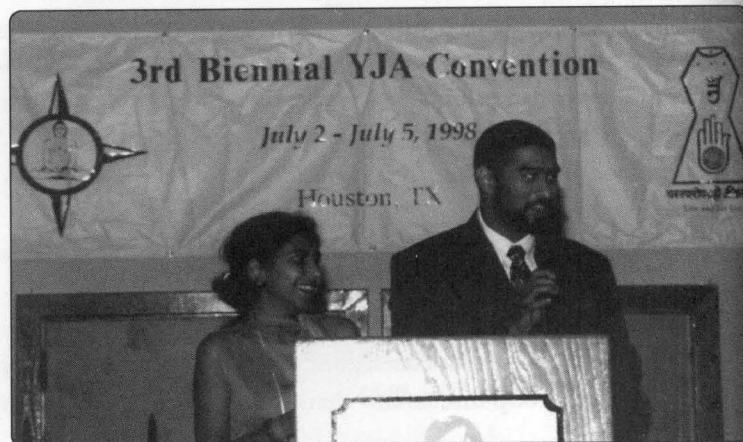
Belonging to a family, whose last name depicted the Jain religion, I felt almost as a heretic for my uncertainties; however, I needed answers. I needed convincing and valid rebuttals to refute my skepticism in many of the Jain traditions.

My first YJA convention this summer provided me with an insight on the Jain philosophies—an aspect of the religion I desired to be exposed to. Being a vegetarian all my life, I always believed in the concept of ahimsa; however, the discussions aided me in taking these beliefs to a new height. The discussion titled "Got Milk" reinforced my convictions of veganism. In the past, I have attempted to follow the dietary vegan tenets primarily in order to maintain a healthier diet; the explicit information I received on the cruel treatment of female cows solely for man's selfish needs persuaded me to strictly follow the vegan way of life, not only in its dietary doctrine, but in its extensive ideology. Balbhadraji explained the scientific background of the soul beyond the aspects of good and bad

karma, and the discussions offered ways in which we could apply Jainism to our daily lives.

For the many young Jains that had never before been immersed in an environment primarily filled with peers of the same religion and an almost identical heritage, the convention took on more of a social aspect. They arrived at the convention seeking a comforting social circle in which they could relate to each other—an integral part in dealing with the clash of cultures in our generation. For me, the purpose and the experience of the convention were somewhat different. I sought answers to questions that governed much of the Jain traditions, and methods for self-improvement. The convention succeeded in resolving much of my queries. Some questions were answered and some methods provided. Hopefully, others remain to be resolved at other upcoming conventions.

*Neela Gada (Chairperson of HYJACC) and Raju Shah (Co-Chair of YJA) at the opening ceremonies.*



*"For me, the purpose and the experience of the convention were somewhat different. I sought answers to questions that governed much of the Jain traditions, and methods for self-improvement."*

—Rakhee Jain

*The Rass Garba on Friday night.*



## Exceeding Expectations

by Mansi Shah

The Young Jains of America (YJA) Convention held in Houston Texas certainly surpassed my expectations. After attending the convention in San Francisco, I was absolutely, positively sure that this convention would be a repeat of the last. The only difference would be that I would be two years older.

The careful planning by the Houston Young Jains of America Convention Committee (HYJACC) and the Young Jains of America Executive Board was seen by all the attendants of the convention. (Especially when attendants watched given a Simpsons episode on video, with Del Lago commercials, on their way to the convention.) The schedule was tightly packed so that each attendant got every opportunity to grow spiritually. The time periods designated to relax became time to meet people and share ideas. The social activities held were very successful in creating a relaxed and enjoy-

able mood for people to mingle (and dance). The food was actually quite edible seeing that it was both Jain and vegan.

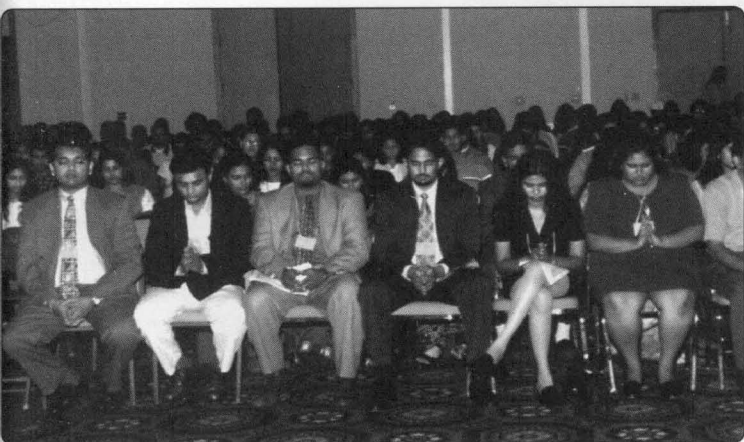
There was always a time and place where one would have to be, whether it was a discussion, a lecture, or a presentation. Each attendant was on "check" which created an atmosphere where the usual truant mannerisms that young adults were likely to execute, were not allowed. This made the convention serious, yet at the same time, pleasant (due to the fact that one could be sure his/her best friend was not outside jetskiing).

The guest speakers made the convention engaging. All three, Gurudev Chitrabhanuji, Shri Balabhadraji and Pujya Sadhvi Shilapiji were able to communicate effectively with today's youth, despite the obvious generation gap. The other guest speaker who "hit home" through his poetry was the animated Benjamin Zephaniah. Every attendant was listening when he was speaking and sharing his experiences and ideals. (But of course, "What does that got to do with me?") All of the speakers positively contributed to the convention and to the lives of many Jain youth.

While the educational aspects of the convention were unparalleled, the social interaction that was found at this convention was like no other. A conference where vegetarianism, non-violence and most importantly, Jainism ties all the attendants together is certainly one of a kind. The event taught one to approach and greet others with respect while learning about his/her new friend and creating bonds that even last till conventions thereafter.

The many volunteers, adults and YJA attendants, must be commended for their hard work and diligence in making sure that all events ran smoothly (especially the hospitality snack room). The YJA Executive Board and HYJACC held a highly organized convention and they deserve a standing ovation.

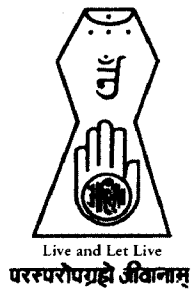
*Prayer at the opening ceremonies.*



*Sadhvi, Gurudev and Balabhadraji: Panelists on Different Interpretations of Jainism.*



*Part of Saturday's team building exercises.*



# Young Jains of America

Federation of Jain Associations in North America

A Non-Profit Tax Exempt Religious Organization. IRS Code Section 501 (c)(3) EI #54-1280028  
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shah@zoo.cs.yale.edu

JAINA Youth Coordinator  
Pravin Mehta  
(931) 648-9535  
pmehra@juno.com

Dear fellow Jain community member,

As we start our last "Letter from the Co-Chairs," we are filled with bittersweet emotions. While it is difficult leaving an organization that we have worked tirelessly for for the last two years, we are confident that the new YJA Executive Board will continue the tradition of excellence that their predecessors have hoped to impart.

Our tenure as YJA Executive members has truly been a life changing experience. We arrived two years ago eager and filled with youthful energy. We leave with the same energy, but also with a sense of maturity and confidence that would not have been present within us without YJA.

With the successful completion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Biennial Young Jains of America Convention, we now pass the torch to a new group of energetic board members. We are certain they will make us proud.

Our success in the last two years would not have been possible without the love and encouragement of countless people. The JAINA Executive Committee, first under the leadership of Dr. Manibhai Mehta, and now under the leadership of Dr. Dhiraj Shah, has provided us innumerable pieces of advice and guidance. The YJA Advisory Board has helped our organization grow leaps and bounds. The knowledge they have imparted to us is immeasurable. Finally, we would like to thank you, our members, for making our last two years so wonderful.

As we leave you with this heartfelt and tearful goodbye, we have but one request. We want you, our youth, our membership, to be proactive. We need you to help the 1998-1999 YJA Executive Board take YJA into the next level. We urge you to shed your dormancy.

These last two years will live in our hearts forever.

Jai Jinendra & Jai Ahimsa

Gaurav Kapadia & Raju Shah  
*Young Jains of America Co-Chairs 1997-1998*

## YOUNG MINDS (continued)

### YJA MEMBERSHIP FORM

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

TODAY'S DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ M.I. \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone Number: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YY): \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Jain Center Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Names: Father \_\_\_\_\_ Mother \_\_\_\_\_

#### EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

##### High School Information

☐ Check if currently a high school student

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class of: \_\_\_\_\_

##### College Information

☐ Check if currently a college student

University/College Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class of: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduate School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class of: \_\_\_\_\_

Most Recent (or current) Degree/Major: \_\_\_\_\_

#### YOUNG PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

Profession (list primary field(s)): \_\_\_\_\_

Employer/Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Position/Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

##### Optional

Why do you want to join YJA?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

##### I do not want...

- ☐ any of this information published by YJA in a positive manner
- ☐ home phone number published
- ☐ college phone number published
- ☐ business phone number(s) published

If you would like to join YJA or update your existing membership information, please fill out this form and mail it to either of the following addresses:

##### Within the U.S.:

Young Jains of America  
c/o Raju Shah  
PO Box 202039  
New Haven CT 06520

##### Outside the U.S.:

Young Jains of America  
c/o Paulomi Gudka  
35 Andes Road  
Scarborough, ONT M1T 3B6

You can also find this form online at:  
<http://www.yale.edu/yja/>

#### Email YJA

To Reach...

##### ...the Executive Committee

yja-excom-list@pantheon.yale.edu

##### ...the Co-Chairs

yja-cc-list@pantheon.yale.edu

##### ...the Advisory Board

yja-ad-list@pantheon.yale.edu

##### ...Your Regional Co-ordinators

yja-xx-list@pantheon.yale.edu

(Replace xx with ma, we, se, so, ne, or mw, depending on your region.)

## YOUNG Minds

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Gaurav Kapadia

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Avni Shah

Raju Shah

Anish Sheth

If you would like to become an editor of **YOUNG Minds**, please email Gaurav Kapadia at [Gauravk@aol.com](mailto:Gauravk@aol.com), or call 516/829-3316.



JAINA, under the leadership of President Dr. Dhiraj Shah, sponsored an essay competition as a part of its ongoing commitment to the progressive development of Jainism in North America. The main topic of the 1998 JAINA Essay Competition was *Maintaining and Representing Our Religious and Cultural Identity as Jains in North America*.

There were a total of 123 participants, 45 from ages up to 10 years, 60 from ages 11 to 14 years, 16 from ages 15 to 18 years and 2 from ages 19 and older. There were 101 participants from Jain Center of Southern California, 11 from Jain Center of Greater Boston, three from Jain Center of San Diego, two from Jain Center of N. California, two from Jain Center of Chicago, two from Jain Center of Connecticut, and one each from Jain Center of Toronto and Florida. JAINA thanks each and every participant, and their respective Jain Centers for their efforts, enthusiasm and affection that they have shown for the Jain religion.

JAINA congratulates the following participants whose essays were judged to be in the top three places in their respective age group, and accordingly they are winners of cash prizes in addition to educational Jain books.

<b>Up to 10 years</b>	Riddhi Mehta, JCSC	Adit Mehta, JCSC	Tejas Gala, JCSC
<b>11 to 14 years</b>	Shadrule Shah, JCGB Shreynas Parekh, JCSC Sunil Parekh, JCSC Bansari Shah, JCSC	Michelle Gandhi, JCSC Reena Shah, JCSC	Karishma Shah, JCSC
<b>15 to 18 years</b>	Manisha Parekh, JCSC	Mansi Shah, JCSC	Maulik Shah, JCSC
<b>19 and older</b>	Raju M. Shah, JCCT	Hemant Gandhi, JCSC	

Jain Center of Southern California is the winning pathshala for encouraging youths and submitting 101 essays.  
The Center will receive a set of Jain books.

The following participants, who also wrote outstanding essays, have been selected for Honorable Mention (by age group and alphabetical order), and accordingly they are winners of educational Jain books:

#### For up to 10 years

Rapir Dedhia—JCSC  
Paras Mehta—JCSC  
Sahil Shah—JCSC

#### For 11 to 14 years

Romish Badani—JCSC	Khushali Gala—JCSC
Anshul Gandhi—JCSC	Tarang Gosalia—JCGB
Isha Jain—JCT	Avni Mehta—JCGB
Sheel Mehta—JCC	Parag Parekh—JCSC
Amisha Sanghavi—JCGB	Akash Shah—JCSC
Kaanan Shah—JCSC	Nishant Shah—JCCT
Rachana Shah—JCSC	Shanehi Shah—JCSC
Shital Shah—Chicago	Sunny N. Shah—JCSC
Vrinda Shah—JCSC	Bansari Sheth—JCSC
Sonal Sheth—JCSC	Viral Sheth—JCSC

#### For 15 to 18 Years

Chaitali Gala—JCSC  
Suken Jain—JCSC  
Reena Mehta—JCGB

The following is the list of the remaining participants (by age group and alphabetical order), whose efforts, enthusiasm and understanding of Jainism were commendable, and accordingly they will be given a Certificate of Participation:

#### For up to 10 years

Ayushi Aithal, Siddharth Dangi, Amman Desai, Anish Gala, Hirav H. Gandhi, Saurin Gandhi, Ayesha Khetani, Arti Kothari, Akshay Mehta, Sagar Mehta, Mehul Parikh, Gautam Salva, Akash Y. Shah, Amish J. Shah, Amy R. Shah, Anjuman Shah, Chandani Shah, Forum Shah, Mansi Shah, Mili Shah, Neelam Shah, Neeel Shah, Nirvi Shah, Paras Shah, Payal Shah, Pooja Shah, Ravi Shah, Ruchir Shah, Sagar Shah, Sail Shah, Shrenik Shah, Vishva Shah, Rohan Sheth, Natiri Shroff, Neil Solanki, Ankit Udani, Sonali Vasa, Rohan Vora and Deven Vyas

#### For 11 to 14 years

Aakash S. Desai, Dipam Doshi, Neil Doshi, Nishita Doshi, Priyanka Doshi, Sheetal Doshi, Sheila Doshi, Shreya Doshi, Vidhi Doshi, Tanmay Gosalia, Piyush Jain, Ronak Jhaveri, Pooja Jhobalia, Tejal Kothari, Anuj Kucheria, Bijal Mehta, Amy Shah, Darshak Shah, Krupa Shah, Mona Shah, Nikita Shah, Nikita S. Shah, Nirav Shah, Palak Shah, Pinita Shah, Rupal Shah, Soham Shah, Sonal Shah, Puja Sheth, Nitya Shroff, Ankit Vasa, Nikhil Vasa and Shaan Zaveri

#### For 15 to 18 years

Sheetal Doshi, Natasha Gandhi, Puneet Jain, Neera Jhaveri, Shrivan Kamdar, Anand Shah, Deepa Shah, Sejal Shah, Priya Sheth, Payal Vasa and Tanvi Vyas

JAINA thanks Dr. Balbhadra Costain, Chandrakant Parekh, Dr. Dilip Shah for their unselfish and dedicated service as judges to make the essay contest a very successful event. Special thanks to Chhaya Kapadia, who is heading the JAINA Essay Committee, and is responsible for developing and implementing the 1998 JAINA Essay Competition concept. Many thanks to Harendra Shah who undertook the enormous task of coordinating every aspect of the competition.

In a true sense, all participating youths are the winners.

JAIN DIGEST will publish the first place essays in all four categories, starting with the first one in this issue. The remaining three will appear in forthcoming issues. All the prizes will be awarded at the 10<sup>th</sup> Biennial JAINA Convention in Philadelphia next July.

## First Place Essay: Up to 10 years

### *Maintaining and Representing Our Religious and Cultural Identity as Jains in North America*

By Riddhi Mehta, Age 8

I am proud to be a young Jain girl. The thing that fascinates me is the purity of Jainism. I feel it is the best religion that I have ever come across. When I talk about my religion to my American friends in school they become overwhelmed about it. It fascinates me because I am proud to be a vegetarian. When I tell my friends that I am a vegetarian they would always ask me that how can I live without eating non-vegetarian food. Then I would explain my friends that I get all my necessary vitamins, carbohydrates and proteins from the vegetarian food that I eat. In order to practice and represent Jainism today, I tell my friends the various diseases caused by eating meat. Most of the meat contains high levels of cholesterol and fat in them. This leads to heart attacks, blockage of arteries and veins.

Therefore in order to expand, practice and promote Jainism in future I would make more people aware of the disadvantages caused by eating non-vegetarian foods. I would print out flyers and pamphlets, which state the disadvantages of eating non-vegetarian foods and advantages of eating vegetarian foods. I would distribute these pamphlets to people in churches, to students in schools, in various institutions and in neighborhood communities.

During my freetime I would arrange conferences and meetings and preach about Jainism in future. At present many people in USA are unaware of the advantages of eating vegetarian foods.

I hate when I hear that animals are being slaughtered in the slaughterhouses. Animals have souls too and they get hurt too when they are killed. They are just like human beings only that

they cannot speak. The principles and teachings of Jainism are to speak the truth and only the truth. We must always respect our elders and also we must never hurt the feelings of other human beings. We must always say Navkar Mantra at least twice a day. It is best to understand the true meaning of Navkar Mantra and explain it to our friends. In times of troubles we must always say Navkar Mantra. I always say Navkar Mantra before I go to bed because my Jain religion teacher has told to do so.

We all visit circus, zoo and sea world for fun. We think that it is also educational for our children. But have we ever considered what the animals behind the bars feel like? Would anyone like to go to prison even without ever committing a crime? Would anyone like to be whipped by the trainers at the zoos?

We also buy pets for our houses. Aren't they cute and beautiful? But again, is it their natural life? Is there any person who can save these animals from being tortured? Yes, we all the Jains, the followers of Mahavir Bhagwan, are here to protect the animals. We should not use animals for our entertainment. We should not buy cage pets, such as birds, fish and hamsters, either.

We must get together and find out how the animals are trained. We should learn how the confined animals have stress, and filthy unhealthy environment. These animals die early because of us.

I am proud to be a young Jain girl. In future I would do my best to promote and practice Jainism.

# JAIN STUDY CENTER OF NORTH CAROLINA

401 Farmstead Drive, Cary, NC 27511-5631 U.S.A.

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Web Site: <http://www.jainism.org> or <http://sunsite.unc.edu/jainism>

Phone/Fax (919) 469-0956 • E-mail: [jscnc@ibm.net](mailto:jscnc@ibm.net)

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## Jain Workshop (Short-term Course in Jainism)

The Jain Study Center of North Carolina and The Federation of JAINA are proud to present the first Jain workshop (short-term course in Jainism) for Pathshala Teachers and other interested adults during the Thanksgiving holiday from Thursday, November 26, 1998 to Sunday, November 29, 1998 (4 days/3 nights).

During the workshop adults will learn in English, the fundamental principles of Jainism, Jain philosophy, Jain ethics, Jain rituals, Jain literature, Jain history, Jain cosmology, Comparative religions, and the application of Jainism to daily life. Details of the program will be published later.

Also, we are in the process of compiling a list of most frequently asked questions by youths. The answers to these questions will be discussed during the workshop. Please forward any youth's questions to one of the committee members.

The aim of this workshop is to educate and prepare Jain Pathshala Teachers, however, the workshop is open to all interested adults. The maximum number of participants can be accommodated in the workshop is 40.

The workshop will be held at the Radisson Governors Inn in the Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. The registration fee for the workshop is only \$100, which covers lodging (three nights of hotel accommodation), food, transportation from and to the airport, and all the material that will be given at the workshop.

We estimate the total cost of the workshop will be about \$8,000. we need to generate \$40,00 in contribution. Any monetary or other kind of help is welcome. Your contribution is tax-deductible in the USA. JAINA has already done its share by pledging a contribution of \$2,000.

We are looking forward to your participation in the workshop. Please send an email for the registration form and other details to one of the following committee members. If you have any suggestions or input to help make this event successful, please feel free to contact us.

### *Jain Workshop Organizing Committee Co-Chairpersons*

Pravin Shah

Phone/Fax (919) 469-0956

[pkshah1@ibm.net](mailto:pkshah1@ibm.net)

Madhuker A. Mehta

Phone (919) 484-9597

[mehta@us.ibm.com](mailto:mehta@us.ibm.com)



## Workshop Information

- Registration Fee: \$100 on or before 9/15/98, \$135 after 9/15/98
- Registration fee includes three nights at hotel, food, and workshop materials
- Workshop duration: November 26, 1998 (5PM) to November 29, 1998 (1PM)
- Maximum 40 adults in a workshop (Pathshala teachers will have a preference)
- Location: The Radisson Governors Inn  
Davis Drive and 140 Exit 280  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709  
(919) 549-8631
- The workshop is cosponsored by the Federation of JAINA

### REGISTRATION FORM

TODAY'S DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Telephone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Education \_\_\_\_\_ Profession \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Male ☐ Female

Diet: ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Vegetarian (no root vegetable) ☐ Vegan (no dairy) ☐ Boiled water

Special diet requirements (Tapascharya, no food after sunset, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Medical limitations \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate preference (two adults in a room) \_\_\_\_\_

Jain Center affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Religious activity (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to present a topic (give detail) \_\_\_\_\_

Suggestions/topics/comments \_\_\_\_\_

Send this form, with payment (payable to *Jain Study Center of North Carolina*), to:  
Jain Study Center of North Carolina, 401 Farmstead Drive, Cary, NC 27511-5631

## Uvasaggaharam Sutra

કમઠે ધરણેન્દ્રે ચ, સ્વોચિતં કર્મ કુર્વતિ;  
પ્રભુસુલ્ભ્યમનોવૃત્તિઃ, પાર્શ્વનાથઃ શ્રિયેસ્તુ વઃ,

શ્રી હેમચંદ્રાચાર્ય

Kamathe Dharanendre Cha Swochitam Karma Kurvati  
Prabhustulya Manovrutti Pārshwanāthah Shriyestu Vah

*Lord Pārshwanāth has equanimity towards Kamath as well as Dharanendra, (even though) they act according to their own inclination (Kamath giving distress to the Lord and Dharanendra providing protection); let (that Lord) be for your spiritual wealth.*

This is another significant Mantra of Jain tradition and its importance is next only to Navkar Mantra. The Sutra is addressed to Lord *Pārshwanāth*. The miraculous impact of Lord *Pārshwanāth* and *Padmāvati*, the attendant goddess of his order, is not only well known among Jains, but many non-Jains also worship them.

ઉવસગ્ગહરં પાસં, પાસં વંદામિ કમ્મઘણમુક્કં ।  
વિસહરવિસનિત્તાસં, મંગલ-કલ્લાણ-આવાસં ॥ ૧ ॥

*I bow to Lord Pārshwanāth whose attending deity is Pārshwa who is free from all Karmas, who is the destroyer of all poisonous defilements and who is the abode of bliss and well being. (1)*

The first line of the stanza has two *Pāsams*. The first *Pāsam* stands for Lord *Pārshwanāth* and the second for *Pārshwa* the male deity in charge of the Lord's order. The Jain tradition believes that there is one male and one female deity earmarked for every *Tirthankar*. They take care of the well being of the *Sangha* as well as Lord's

This Sutra is believed to have been composed by great *Bhadrabahuwami*, who was the 5th and the last *Shrutikewali*. The Jain tradition states that he had a brother named *Varāhmihir*, the well known astrologer of ancient India. He was first initiated in the Jain order, but being somehow disgusted of that life, he had given it up and had set up as an astronomer. From that time onward, he nursed a grudge against his brother and cultivated hostility towards Jainism.

Once the king of that place got a son. *Varāhmihir* prepared a horoscope of the prince that indicated that the prince would live for hundred years. Since the prince was the first child of the king, every one went to the court to give compliments to the king. *Bhadrabahuwami*, however, could not go. *Varāhmihir* seized that opportunity and poisoned the ears of the king by pointing out the absence of even the formal courtesy on the part of the Jain ascetic.. The king therefore conveyed his displeasure for the apparent discourtesy. Thereupon *Bhadrabahuwami* sent the message that he

devotees. The Lord has destroyed all sorts of *Karmas* and stays in liberated state. He has therefore been described here as free from *Karma*. Such *Karmaless* state is free from all misery and unhappiness. As such, that state has been specified here as the abode of bliss.

Some people translate the second '*Pāsam*' as 'close to' and interpret the line as bowing near *Pārshwanāth*. But the word for closeness in *Ardhamāgadhī* is *Pāsah*, not *Pāsam*. Moreover, such preposition is not required in the context of bowing, because we do not bow near; we bow to. As such, that interpretation does not seem to be right.

The literal meaning of *Visahar* occurring in the third line is holder of poison. As such, the term stands for snake. But to adore Lord *Pārshwanāth* as remover of the poison of snake amounts to restricting his impact to a minor worldly aspect. (His life was, no doubt, associated with saving the snake couple, but no mention is made in that tale about their poison). His overcoming of the defilements, that defile the nature of soul, is more significant than any other aspect. Such defilements are as harmful as poison. It is therefore more reasonable to interpret *Visahar* as defilements.

વિસહરકુલિંગ મંતં, કંઠે ધારેઈ જો સયા મણુઓ ।  
તસસ ગહ-રોગ મારી, દુક્રુજરા જંતિ ઉવસામં ॥ ૨ ॥

*If one always wears in the neck, the Visaharfulling Mantra, his unfavorable planetary impact, disease, epidemic and acute fever are calmed down. (2)*

There is an 18 letter (37 letters in Roman script) *Visaharfulling* Mantra associated with the name of *Pārshwanāth*, which is effective against all types of affliction. The Mantra is:

did not compliment the king, because the newly born prince was not destined to survive long and was going to die on the seventh day by the impact of a cat.

The king was aware of the knowledgeability of the great ascetic and therefore took all precautionary measures to prevent such calamity. In particular, he took care to see that no cat comes within the precincts of the royal palace. On the seventh day, however, while the wet-nurse was suckling the prince with her back at the door, the wooden bolt of the door fell down upon the child and he instantly died. The royal family was thereby plunged in deep sorrow.

The king could now make out that *Bhadrabahuwami* was right in predicting the untimely death of the prince. He was, however, curious that there was no impact of cat in the death of the prince, as was predicted by the great ascetic. *Bhadrabahuwami* therefore called for the bolt and pointed out that there was the picture of a cat on the side of the bolt that struck the prince. The king then realized the accuracy of his knowledge and the futility of *Varāhmihir*'s claim.



“નમિઉણ પાસ વિસહર વસહ જિણ કુલિંગ”

*Namiuna Pāsa Visahara Vasaha Jina Fullinga.*

Some people add to this Mantra a few symbolic utterances and recite it as under:

‘ૐ હ્રીં શ્રીં અહં નમિઉણ પાસ વિસહર વસહ કુલિંગ હ્રીં નમઃ’

*Aum Hrim Srim Arham Namiuna Pāsa Visahāra Vasah Fulling Hrim Namah.*

Of these utterances, *Aum* is the symbol of five supreme entities, *Hrim* is the symbol of three worlds, *Shrim* is the symbol of spiritual wealth, *Arham* stands for worship-worthiness and the last *Hrim* stands for truth.

ચિદ્દેવ દૂરે મંતો, તુજ્ઞ પણામો વિ બહુફલો હોઈ ।  
નરતિરિએસુ વિ જીવા, પાવંતિ ન દુઃખદોગચ્ચં ॥ ૩ ॥

*Keep aside that Mantra.*

*Even obeisance to you would be highly fruitful.*

*(Thereby) the human beings and other creatures would not get misery or distress. (3)*

The darkness disappears with the rise of the sun. But prior to sunrise there is the twilight of the morning which also removes the darkness of the night. Similarly, the above said Mantra would, no doubt, remove the misery and distress, but even obeisance to the Lord can avert such affliction.

તુલ સમ્મતે લખ્યે, ચિંતામણિ-કપ્પપાયવબ્ભહિએ ।  
પાવંતિ અવિગ્ધેણં, જીવા અયરામરં ઠાણં ॥ ૪ ॥

The astronomer was then subjected to insult and died of the distress resulting from the disgrace. His soul however remained wandering and as an evil ghost, he caused plague and other epidemics in the city. In order to protect the citizens from that calamity, *Bhadrabāhuswami* composed this Sutra and advised the people to recite it as a Mantra. As the people started reciting it, they could get free from all the troubles.

The details of this story do not fit historical data. *Bhadrabāhuswami* lived during the time of *Chandragupta Maurya* who came to the throne in 322 B.C. and abdicated around 300 B.C. *Varāhmihir*, on the other hand, lived during late fifth or early sixth century. There is thus a gap of about 800 years between the two. Moreover, prior to his migration to Nepal or to South, as the case may be, *Bhadrabāhuswami* mostly stayed in *Magadh*. The king of *Magadh*, before *Chandragupta*'s taking over, was *Dhannand*, who was the last king of *Nand* dynasty. No incident about the prince dying of such accident has, however, been recorded in the case of

*By gaining your perception,  
which is far greater than the desire yielding tree,  
the worldly beings can get the ageless and immortal state. (4)*

The worldly souls have been facing the misery and affliction on account of their ignorance of the Self. That ignorance can be overcome by the right perception which enlightens the Self. Thereby one can pick up the right path leading to liberation. That perception is here described as more important than the desire yielding tree. Such tree is supposed to give whatever one desires. The desires, however, lead to the worldly life, which is the source of misery and unhappiness. As such, the desire yielding tree does not serve the true purpose, while the right perception does. That perception leads to the bliss of liberation, which is indestructible and stays forever.

ઈઅ સંચુઓ મહાયશ, ભત્તિ-ભર નિબ્ભરેણ હિયએણ ।  
તા દેવ દિજ્ઞ બોહિં, ભવે ભવે પાસ ! જિણચંદ ! ॥ ૫ ॥

*I have thus prayed to you by heart overflowing with devotion.*

*Therefore, Lord Pārshwanāth,  
the abode of all bliss, endow me with wisdom of right perception in every life. (5)*

In this concluding stanza the aspirant states that he is praying the Lord with all the sincerity. Right perception is the prize of true prayer and such perception leads to the liberation. But humble as he is, the aspirant thinks that he may still be required to take some births. If he happens to miss the right perception in any of the births, he may be required to wander in the worldly cycle indefinitely. He therefore entreats the Lord to bless him with right perception during every birth which he might have to take.

either of them.

*Bhadrabāhuswami* was a great scholar and is known as the author of several compositions. One of his composition is *Dashāshruskāndha* and the well known *Kalpasutra* is a part of it. On account of his fame, many later authors have ascribed their works to his name. This might have happened in the case of *Uvasaggaharam Sutra* as well. Aside from its origin, however, it is a good Sutra and has been helpful to many in being relieved of their problems.

This Sutra is mostly prevalent among *Shwetambar Murtipujak* people. There is, however, nothing therein which would be repugnant to *Sthanakwasi* or *Diagambar* beliefs. It is a pure prayer adoring Lord *Pārshwanāth* and the request for right perception is the innocent one acceptable to Jainism. It can therefore be safely made use of by all irrespective of their traditions.

*(JAIN DIGEST is grateful to Mr. Manubhai Doshi of Chicago for his permission to print this article, which was published in June issue of "Jain Darshan".)*



## VIRCHAND RAGHAVJI GANDHI FUND

The following donors have contributed \$100 or more to Virchand Raghavji Scholarship Fund:

- 1 Chandrakant & Leena Shah, Macungie, PA
- 2 Bharat Mehta, Easton, PA
- 3 Pravin & Dina Shah, Wyomissing, PA
- 4 Anil & Niru Mody, Farmington Hills, MI
- 5 Jain Center of America, New York, NY
- 6 Sumitra & Bhailal Shah, Allentown, PA
- 7 Prakash & Nirupama Shah, Bethlehem, PA

## JAIN DIGEST LIFE MEMBERS UPDATE

Congratulations and thanks to our newest JAIN DIGEST Life Members:

- 534 Mr. & Mrs. Chandrakant A. Shah, Pittsburgh, PA
- 535 Mr. & Mrs. Nitin Sheth, New City, NY
- 536 Mr. Bhogilal Doshi, Bloomfield Hills, MI
- 537 Mr. & Mrs. C. S. Shah, Athens, GA

## HAPPY OCCASIONS

Jaina wishes the very best and thanks you for your donation of \$101:

Mr. Narendra and Usha Shah, Danbury, CT, for their daughter Hemal's wedding.

## GENERAL FUND UPDATE

The JAIN DIGEST and JAINA would like to thank each and every one of the following for their generosity in helping make us successful:

Interest transferred from JAIN DIGEST endowment fund (1997)	\$2,432.87
Jagdish & Madhu Sheth, Atlanta, GA (Veerayatan & Samet Shikar)	2,000
Jain Center of Southern California for JAINA Focus	500
Marriage Information Service	260
Jiya & Shubbi Jain, Fort Wayne, IN	50
Hitesh Shah, Forset Hills, NY	25

## CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Kunal Sanghvi has scored a perfect 1600 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) this year. He also scored a perfect 1600 last year, when he wrote his Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT). Sanghvi, 17, started with a group of gifted children and continued in the program for specially gifted students through intermediate school. This fall, he will be a senior at the nationally renowned Bronx High School of Science.



Sanghvi, who has participated in state and national level math competitions for the past two years, has earned six medals, a trophy and several citations in math competitions.

## Federation of Jain Associations in North America Appeal

*I want to stop the loss of Jain identity and culture by supporting JAINA and I want to be a proud Jain!  
Please fill out this form and support JAINA.*

In the U.S.A, mail to:

JAINA Headquarters  
PO Box 700  
Getzville, NY 14068



In Canada, mail to:

S.S. Jain Foundation  
276 Carlaw Ave., Unit 200  
Toronto, ONT M4M 3L1

☐ I want to be a Trustee of JAINA Charitable Trust and will donate \$500<sup>00</sup> every year.

☐ I want to be a JAINA Patron and will donate \$251<sup>00</sup> every year.

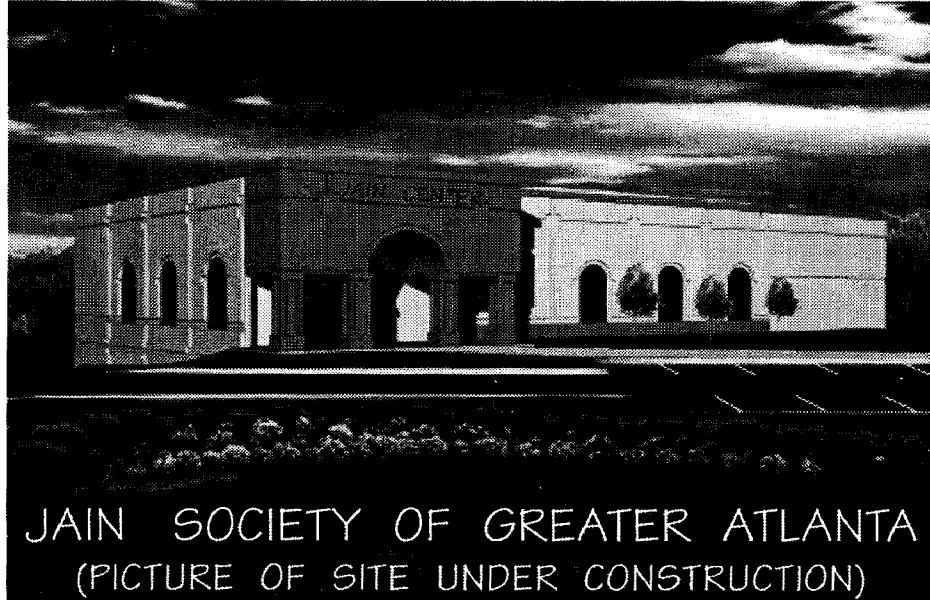
☐ I want to be a Life Member of JAIN DIGEST and will donate \$101<sup>00</sup>.

☐ Any other amount: ☐ \$10 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50

Please make checks payable to JAINA in the U.S.A. or S.S. Jain Foundation in Canada.

Your donation is tax-deductible in both countries. Please advise us if you wish your donation to remain anonymous.  
950 Jain families have already done so, would you not do so? If not for you, do it for your children and grandchildren.

# JAIN SOCIETY OF GREATER ATLANTA IN PROCESS TO BUILD A JAIN CENTER



In April, 1998 Acharya Shri. Chandnaji conducted Bhumi-Pujan ceremony at this site and gave her blessings for this up-coming Jain Center / Temple. This Jain Center will be a landmark for the Jain community in the United States of America and Canada for generations to come. Jain Society of Greater Atlanta has collected sizeable amount of fund in the form of cash and pledges, howerve, it still needs to raise some more funds to complete this project by early part of 1999.

This is an excellent opportunity for the Jain bandhus of US and Canada to extend their helping hand for this noble project. Executive Committee of Greater Atlanta would like to appeal all Jains to contribute any amount towards this worthy cause. Please send your tax deductible contribution payable to:

JAIN SOCIETY OF GREATER ATLANTA

P.O.Box 15126, Atlanta, GA 30333

\$  \$  \$  \$  \$

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT

\*Any question for scheme etc. Please call:

Mr. Dipak Shah (President) (770) 552 2507

Mr. Indu. Bhavsar (v.President) (770) 985 2890 Mr. Shirish Gandhi (Secretary) (770) 925 7488

*This page has been sponsored by the Jain Society of Greater Atlanta.*

## Who should take cholesterol-lowering drugs

by Dr. Dilip Shah, Chicago, Illinois

It is well known that high cholesterol levels have been found to be linked to higher risks of heart disease. What is less well known is that the degree of risk is highly influenced by the amount of different types of cholesterol found in your body. Total cholesterol is composed of two types: "good" cholesterol (HDL), which has been found to have a protective function in the body, and "bad" cholesterol (LDL), which clogs arteries.

A recent study suggests that cholesterol levels that were previously considered normal may actually be too high. Instead, a cholesterol level under 200 mg/dL is desirable. To understand the numbers, see the table below:

Total cholesterol	below 200	200-240	above 240
"Bad" LDL cholesterol	below 130	130-160	above 160
"Good" HDL cholesterol	above 50	35-50	below 35

As can be seen in the table, an LDL level of more than 160 mg/dL is considered abnormal and results in a higher risk for atherosclerotic vascular disease. People carrying two or more of the common risk factors such as smoking, diabetes, high blood pressure, and family history should consider an LDL level of under 100 mg/dL as desirable and 130 mg/dL as abnormal. People who have had chest pains, heart attacks, or strokes should also target an LDL level of less than 100 mg/dL. A good relative measure of the risk associated with LDL levels is the ratio of HDL/LDL in the body; typically, a ratio of 25% or higher is considered adequate. For example, an individual with a total cholesterol level of 200 mg/dL should have an HDL level of 50 mg/dL or more.

Before considering any drug therapy for high cholesterol, lifestyle changes may improve your cholesterol profile. Simple changes include reducing total fat intake by 30% by reducing butter and cheese in your diet and by replacing peanut oil with olive or canola oil. Exercise and weight reduction will also reduce the total cholesterol and improve the HDL/LDL ratio.

Should all of this fail, a new group of cholesterol-lowering drugs called Statins is recommended. Controlled studies show that these new drugs can reduce the onset of first-time episodes of chest pain and heart attacks by as much as 36%. These positive results are also accompanied by a drop in cholesterol levels by nearly 20%, and a significant reduction in cardiac deaths and strokes. It is important to note, however, that a reduced fat diet must always be tried before turning to medications.

### Women's Issue

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in women and this is especially true in post-menopausal woman who no longer have the benefits of regular hormonal cycles to assist in the regulation on cholesterol levels in the body. Hormone replacement therapy [HRT] is one alternative to lipid-lowering drugs for many post-menopausal women because it has been found to protect against heart disease. Preliminary studies indicate that HRT would be most beneficial for women with cardiovascular risk factors such as a family history of heart disease, obesity, high cholesterol, and smoking as targeted women showed up to a 50% drop in death rates.

In short, make the changes that you can in your lifestyle and discuss these issues with your physician.



## MATRIMONIALS

### MALE

**M491:** Hindi speaking parents invite responses with biodata & photo, for US born, handsome, vegetarian son, Sept 71, 5'9", MD, completing residency in June 99, from cultured, educated, slim, beautiful girls. Call: 440/838-1372.

**M662:** Alliance invited for very handsome, fair, talented, highly accomplished vegetarian boy, born Oct 66, 5'10", 140 lb, MS, very well employed as software engineer in a renowned research co., from cultured, educated, pretty girls. Call: 813/786-5703 & 613/228-7166.

**M663:** Gujarati parents invite responses for their very handsome, fair, vegetarian son, born Oct 70, 5'11", 170 lb, MBA, pursuing CFA, well employed with investment bank at NYC, from cultured, beautiful, educated girls. Call: 718/263-7237.

**M672:** Alliance invited for Gujarati, handsome, intelligent, vegetarian boy, born March 68, 5'11", 130 lb, MS (comp sc), well employed as software engineer, from cultured, educated girls. Call: 630/904-8535.

**M673:** Responses invited for Gujarati, handsome, talented, vegetarian boy, born July 70, 5'8", 160 lb, MS (structural eng), well employed as consulting engineer, from educated, cultured girls. Call: 505/797-8487.

**AM124:** Exceptionally handsome, fair, 6'1", 29, JD (Law) + MBA, athletic with dynamic personality, son: prestigious, loving, cultured, wealthy Gujarati Jain family seeks a compatible match. Call: 714/544-5005.

**AM214:** Practicing Surgeon (recently widowed) seek educated, professional, active, vegetarian & pretty lady in forties residing in USA. Please send biodata / returnable photo.

### FEMALE

**F043:** Alliance invited by Gujarati parents from well educated, cultured boys, for their pretty, intelligent, vegetarian, never married, US citizen daughter, born April 63, 5'1", 100 lb, BS, pursuing MS, well employed as consultant. Call: 410/536-0162.

**F216:** Uncle in USA invite responses from well settled professionals, for very beautiful, attractive, charming, niece, born April 71, 5'2", 100 lb, MBBS (appearing USMLE), Her two months never consummated marriage was annulled. Visiting USA during Sept 98, for short time, willing to settle in USA. Call: 510/651-7989. India Ph / Fax: 253-580675.

**F324:** Gujarati Surgeon invite correspondence from highly educated professionals, for his slim, fair, very beautiful, talented, highly accomplished daughter, born Nov 70, 5'2", MS (economy) from very prestigious school, well versed with Indian culture. Call: 301/983-8597.

**F386:** Gujarati parents invite responses for their accomplished, US raised, pretty, vegetarian daughter, born Aug 69, 5'8", MBA with IV league, very well professionally employed, from well educated professionals Call: 718/743-8334.

**F512:** Responses invited by Gujarati parents for their good looking, cultured, smart, vegetarian daughter, born Oct 73, 5'5", BS, employed as accountant, from cultured, educated boys. Call: 718/962-2754.

**F607:** Professional Jain parents invite responses from handsome, professional preferably MD, PhD, for their extremely beautiful, fair, intelligent, progressive, USA raised daughter, born May 72, 5'4", 110 lb, BS, awaiting starting medical school. Call: 612/429-8679.

**F621:** Gujarati parents invite responses for their beautiful, talented, vegetarian, US born daughter, Dec 73, 5'7", 3rd year Medical student, from cultured, professional boys preferably MD or medical student. Call: 407/366-8810.

**F664:** Jain parents from UK, invite matrimonial responses for their slim, beautiful, fair, charming, vegetarian, professional, British citizen daughter, born April 70, 5'5", BS (Hons), well employed, willing to migrate to US / Canada. Call: 011-44-181-952-5757. Address: 4 Whitchurch Close, Edgware, Middx, London UK, HA8 6PE. USA contact: 513/777-1554.

**F665:** Responses invited by Gujarati parents for their beautiful, intelligent, active, vegetarian, US citizen daughter, born Nov 66, 5'2", 105 lb, MPH, well employed, from well educated, cultured boys. Call: 310/216-7876.

**F666:** Alliance invited by Gujarati Industrialist parents for their pretty, talented, vegetarian, divorcee daughter, born Feb 60, 5'3", 125 lb, BA, Dip.Home Sc (UK), from cultured, well settled suitable persons either in business or professional. Call: 914/735-4080.

**F667:** Gujarati parents invite responses with biodata / photo from sincere, caring, vegetarian, professional boys, for their US raised, pretty, smart, active daughter, born Jan 73, 5'3", 105 lb, BS (EE), pursuing MS, well employed in silicon valley, hailing from close neat family, loves outdoors. Call: 717/678-7971.

**F668:** Alliance invited by Gujarati parents for their beautiful, slim, fair, intelligent, vegetarian daughter, born Feb 74, 5'6", 120 lb, BA (fashion merchandising), from cultured, educated, vegetarian boys. Call: 718/803-1714 or 818/718-2761.

**F669:** Responses invited by Gujarati parents for their pretty, slim, smart, vegetarian daughter, born Dec 75, 5'2", 106 lb, BS (accounting) employed with IBM, from educated, cultured boys. Call: 630/736-7601

**F670:** Correspondence invited with biodata & returnable photo for a bright, beautiful, caring, US raised, vegetarian girl, born May 73, 5'3", 125 lb, MD (99), from Hind speaking professional boys. Call: 440/255-5622.

**F671:** Alliance invited for beautiful, fair, intelligent, charming, vegetarian, Hindi speaking girl, born Oct 74, 5'5", 120 lb, Bcom, doing final year law in Bombay, free lance writer as Jt Editor in famous News Paper, willing to settle in USA. Bombay Ph: 3826527. USA contact: 440/255-5622.

**AF121:** Exceptionally beautiful with attractive features, very fair, slim, 25 / 5'7" with MS degree, multi-talented, virtuous, family oriented, daughter: cultured, Gujarati Jain family seeks a suitable match. Call: 714/544-5005.

**AF212:** Responses invited for Gujarati, pretty, intelligent, British citizen, vegetarian girl, born Nov 63, 5'2", MBBS, MRCGP, Board eligible in USA, family practitioner in London, willing to settle in USA, from suitable cultured, professional match. Call: 609/751-3884.

**AF213:** Jain parents seek proposals for their highly accomplished, US born, Ivy League educated MD daughter, fair, very attractive, extrovert, charming, 24, 5'3", slim, from highly educated, MD / professionals. Call: 312/996-5697.

**AF215:** Jain parents invite responses for their accomplished, talented, US born daughter, Oct 71, 5'6", MS, well employed as aerospace engineer, from professional, cultured boys. Address: 4153 North US Hwy 23, Fostoria, OH 44830. Ph: 419/435-8941, Fax: 419/435-8942, E-mail: vjain@cba.bgsu.edu

## REGIONAL NEWS (continued)

### Southwest

#### Continued from page 12

1. Pandit Shri Chimanbhai Modi came on June 15. Basically he gave continuous discourses on Samaysar Gathas 14th and 15th regarding "Atma ni Anubhuti".

2. Dr. Bharill gave discourses on Samaysar Anushilan Gatha number 204, Kalash 142. He also explained the Krambadha Paryay on the last day. He said Krambadha Paryay is made up of five essential components: Swabhav, Kal Labdhi, Nimitt, Purusharth, and Honahar.

3. Pujya Sant Shri Atmanandji (Dr.

Soneji) came to Phoenix from July 17-21. He gave discourses on Srimad Rajchandra's Vachanamrut Patrank # 572. A lecture on "Live a Noble Life" was delivered to the general audience in Phoenix. Over two hundred people attended this session very attentively. Before this lecture, Mumukshu Shri Harshadbhai Panchal sang Bhav/Bhakti songs. He has been staying in Koba with Pujya Shri for his Adhyatmik Sadhana for the past 5 years. The lecture was followed by a Q/A session. Several attendees asked very spiritual and inquisitive questions to which Pujya Shri provided very clear and straight

answers. The program was concluded with a dinner provided by the Greater Phoenix Jain Samaj. Sahebji also spent Sunday morning performing the Dev-Guru-Shashtra pooja as he explained the meaning to the Pathshala students.

Mumukshu Shri Bharatbhai Shah from Mumbai is scheduled to spend Paryushan parva with us. A tentative plan is to do Swadhyay on "Moksha Marg Prakashak" subject under his guidance and spiritual inspiration.

JCGP contact is Harshad Desai at 602/582-8437.

### Guideline to all perspective participants

Be positive, constructive, creative and friendly! No match is going to be “perfect.” Complement and support each other practicing respect, sharing, acquire knowledge and maintaining your uniqueness while keeping an open mind. These are the qualities that make for human perfection. Our world is shrinking and we are a global village and life is not always easy. However, we can carry our philosophy and our value system that is very worth while, with us. Accept the challenge and make your choice be a worth while one.

### Placing an Ad and Registration with MIS

Anyone wishing to place an ad and register with the MIS—Marriage Information Service—must follow these instructions *carefully*:

① Fill out the attached Registration Form. The registrant must fill out this form. *Do not leave anything blank.*

② Mail the following items to:

Hasmukh M. Shah  
8721 Scrimshaw Drive  
New Port Richey, FL 34653-6623  
(813/376-7290)

- the completed form
- a check in the amount of \$25 payable to **Hasmukh M. Shah**. Leave the “memo” or “for” line blank.
- a recent, full-length photo of yourself with your name printed on the back

Upon receipt of this information the MIS will draft an ad for you and it will appear in the JAIN DIGEST—but only once. Remember, JAIN DIGEST is a quarterly publication.

### Placing an Ad Only

If you do not wish to register with the MIS and wish to draft an ad yourself, you may do so in *30 words or less*. Remember, that the MIS reserves the right to edit all such ads. Follow step ② above, but submit your own ad instead of a completed form and photo.

As a rule, all MIS ads include the phone number of the registrant. However, if you do not wish to publish your phone number, you must specifically notify Hasmukh M. Shah.

### Responding to an Ad

All those wishing to respond to an ad must follow these step-by-step instructions. Place your bio-data and a recent photograph of yourself in a sealed, stamped envelope with your return address in the upper left-hand corner and the MIS ad reference number in the lower left-hand corner of the envelope. Leave space on the envelope for an address.

Place this envelope in another envelope with your return address in the upper left-hand corner and mail it to Hasmukh M. Shah (see address above).

Upon receipt of these responses the MIS will place the ad holders address on the inner envelope and mail it.

Remember, MIS is not responsible for responses that do not conform to these instructions.

### Please notify the MIS

Please notify the MIS when an engagement or marriage has been announced. This helps us to know if this community service is working to help maintain our traditions.

Please note that if a successful alliance has taken place, both parties will agree to donate what ever amount they wish to JAINA to help defray the cost of publication.

### Important Considerations

It is important to remember that the MIS is a non-for-profit, voluntary community service. The MIS and JAINA assume no responsibility or liability for the accuracy or authenticity of the information furnished in the ads or any consequences resulting thereof. The entire responsibility rests with the candidates themselves.

All information furnished to the MIS is confidential. Only those who are sincerely interested in looking for a Jain life partner should send a Registration Form. While matching, photographs will not be passed on to the candidates by the MIS.

Parents/guardians should communicate with the candidate before placing ad and assist them in making a final decision.

### Congratulations!

JAINA would like to congratulate all couples who have come together with the help of the services of the MIS. JAINA wishes to thank them for their generous donation.

The following candidates who have registered/listed with the Marriage Information Service are married/engaged, with the help of this service:

F098, 127, 139, 151, 152, 159, 188, 196, 206, 257, 299, 316, 366, 382, 385, 387, 393, 397, 398, 426, 447, 457, 462, 465, 483, 490, 555. AF74, 90, 106, 101, 110.

M181, 199, 237, 254, 284, 286, 287, 304, 321, 330, 336, 342, 343, 344, 364, 388, 389, 395, 405, 411, 417, 422, 438, 445, 446, 450, 452, 459, 470, 536, 624. AM79, 89, 104, 107, 114, 120, 135, 169.

More and more Jains around the world are not only appreciating this much needed service, but are also taking advantage of it. Simultaneously, the flow of ads in JAIN DIGEST is gradually increasing.

**MIS REGISTRATION FORM — PAGE 1**

Send this completed form, a check in the amount of \$25 and a recent,  
full-length photograph of yourself with your name printed on the back to:

Hasmukh M. Shah, 8721 Scrimshaw Drive,  
New Port Richey, FL 34653-6623

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_  
LAST FIRST MIDDLE

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET CITY STATE ZIP

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Height: \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a vegetarian? YES NO Do you smoke? YES NO Do you drink? YES NO

Have you been married before? YES NO

If yes, indicate the name of your divorced spouse. \_\_\_\_\_

What is your visa status in the USA/Canada? \_\_\_\_\_ When did you enter the USA/Canada? \_\_\_\_\_  
MONTH/YEAR

What languages do you speak? \_\_\_\_\_ What is your religion? \_\_\_\_\_

What languages do you read? \_\_\_\_\_

What languages do you write? \_\_\_\_\_

Education: \_\_\_\_\_  
DEGREE YEAR RECEIVED MAJOR NAME OF UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE

Work experience: \_\_\_\_\_  
COMPANY'S NAME POSITION DURATION

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Brother(s) and/or Sister(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME(S) AGE(S) EDUCATION OCCUPATION

Do you have other relatives living in the North America? \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME RELATIONSHIP OCCUPATION ADDRESS

Other relevant information (use additional paper if necessary): \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*The MIS and JAINA assume no liability or responsibility for the accuracy or authenticity of the information herein, nor the consequences resulting thereof.*



**1. Two references who are members of the Jain Community or other Indian organizations.**

A. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Member of: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION'S NAME

B. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Member of: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION'S NAME

**2. Indicate your personal preference of these criteria for the match.**

Age: Between the ages of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ or open.

Height: Between the height of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ or open.

Weight: Between the weight of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ or open.

Education: ☐ Bachelor ☐ Masters Degree ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetarian: YES NO Work experience: YES NO

Residence: (state) \_\_\_\_\_ Visa Status: \_\_\_\_\_

Length of time in North America: \_\_\_\_\_ years.

Language. English: YES NO Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Photograph**

Attach a recent, full-length photograph of yourself with your name printed on the back. Please note: no photographs will be exchanged while matching is taking place.

**With best compliments to JAINA**

**Dr. Navin C. Mehta,  
M.B.B.S., M.D., P.C.  
EAR, NOSE & THROAT  
HEAD & NECK  
FACIAL PLASTIC &  
RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGEON**

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ASSISTANT CLINICAL PROFESSOR  
NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE  
& AFFILIATED HOSPITALS**

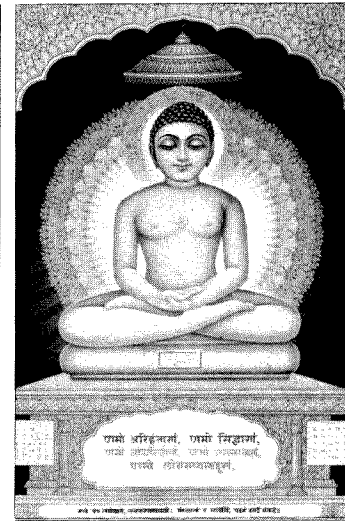
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NEW YORK CITY, NY 10003  
(212) 505-9640**



Tirthankar Parsavnath



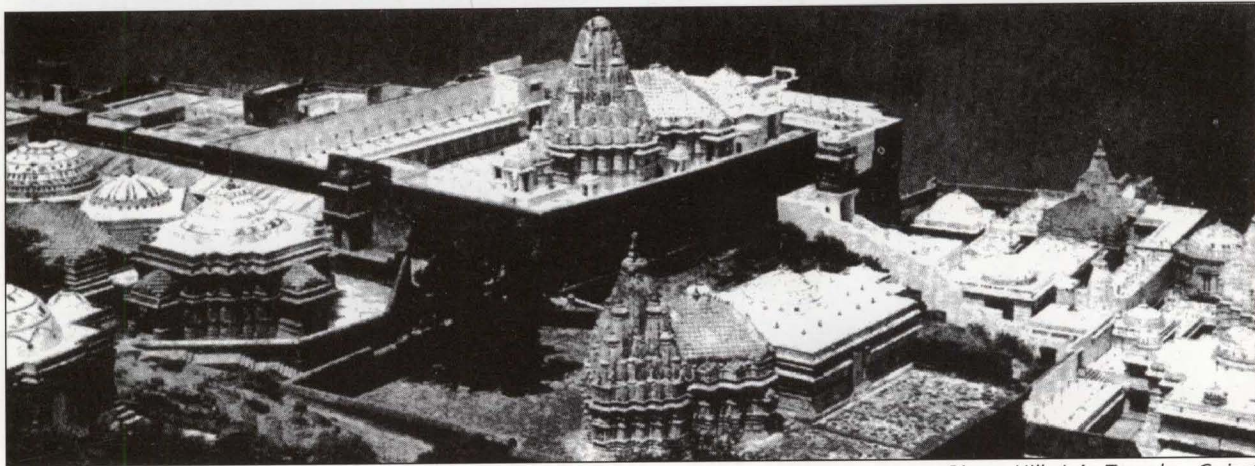
**Jain temple format**



Tirthankar Mahavir

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