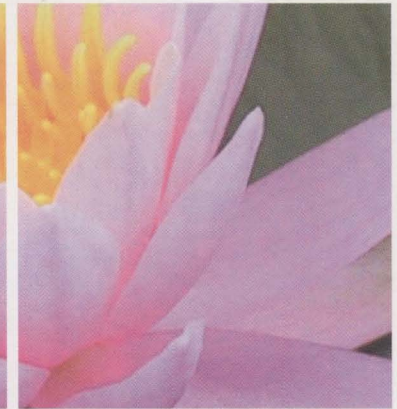
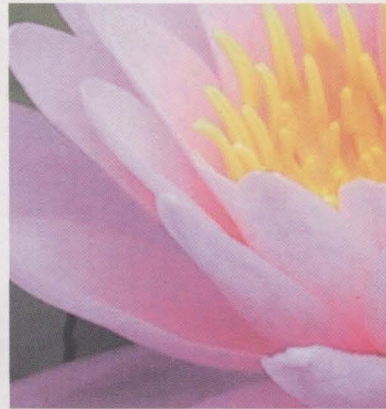
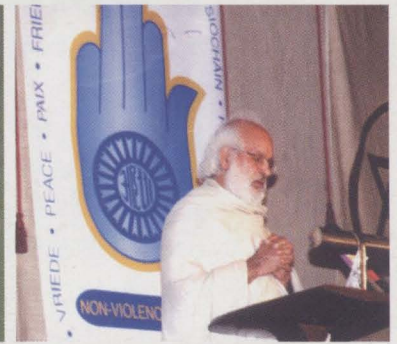
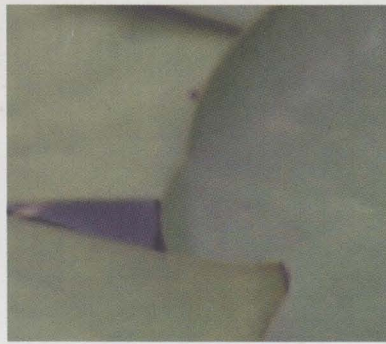


JAIN DIGEST

*A Publication by the Federation of Jain Associations in North America
Summer 2002*

Volume 22, No. 2



Ahimsa Varsh Celebrations

JAIN TEMPLE, WASHINGTON, DC



JAI JINENDRA

अहो! अहो! श्री सदगुरु, 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 सहु 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.

SHAH ASSOCIATES, M.D., L.L.C.

Shanti Medical Center, P.O. Box 664, Leonardtown, MD 20650
Phone: 301-475-5579 Metro 301-870-2049 Fax 301-884-7419

Cardiology
Vinod K. Shah, MD, FACC
A. A. Patil, MD, FACC
Mahesh P. Shah MD, FACC
Anil K. Shah, MD, FACC
Anantha Rao, MD, FACC
Gastroenterology
Umed K. Shah, MD, FACC
Atul R. Shah, MD, FACC
Nayan R. Shah, MD, FACC
Sreenivas Mannam MD
Pulmonology
Kiran D. Mehta, MD, FCCP
Neurology
Beena A. Shah, MD
Internal Medicine
Bhasker A. Jhaveri, MD
David M. Federle, MD
Mary Kramer, MD
Avani D. Shah, MD
Dhiren Shah, MD
Chandra B. Sajja, MD
Manoj Panwala, MD
Hematology/Oncology
Gurdeep Chhabra, MD
Harminder S. Sethi, MD
Gerontology
Anwar T. Munshi, MD, FACP
Rita B. Jhaveri, MD
Pediatrics
Ila V. Shah, MD, FAAP
M.E.O. Lafeer, MD, FAAP
Dawn Bertram-Stewart, MD
Beena Khetpal, MD
Fahmi H. Fahmi MD
Pediatrics/Internal Medicine
James I. Harring, MD, FAAP, FACP
Family Practice
John F. Fenwick, MD
J. Patrick Jarboe, MD
Robert J. Bauer, MD
John L. Bennett, MD
J. Scott Tidball, MD
Roy H. Bunales, MD
Radiology
Halappa G. Hakkal, MD
Harris E. Orzach, MD
Psychiatry
Aruna A. Patil, MD
Endocrinology
John Tourtelot, MD

Hollywood Office
Philip J. Bean Medical Center
P.O. Box 640
24035 Three Notch Road
Hollywood, MD 20636
301-373-7900

Leonardtown Offices
Shanti Medical Center
P O Box 664
26840 Point Lookout Road, Suite 101
Leonardtown, MD 20650
301-475-5577 301-475-5524
St. Mary's Medical Arts Building
P O Box 306

22650 Cedar Lane Court
Leonardtown, MD 20650
310-475-5021 301-475-5023
Prince Frederick Office
Calvert Medical Office Building
110 Hospital Road, Suite 303
Prince Frederick, MD 20678
410-535-4333

Lexington Park Office
22335 Exploration II, Suite 1030 & 1035
Lexington Park, MD 20653
301-863-7041 301-863-9000
California Office
P.O. Box 540
23263 By the Mill Road
California, MD 20619
301-863-5835

Charlotte Hall Office
Charlotte Hall Medical Centre
P.O. Box 507
29795 Three Notch Road
Charlotte Hall, MD 20622
301-884-7322 301-884-7330

Mechanicsville Office
Village Medical Annex
28160 Old Village Road, Suite A
Mechanicsville, MD 20659
301-884-4666

Washington Area
831 University Blvd., #32
Silver Spring, MD 20903
301-445-4430

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JAIN DIGEST CIRCULATION
Federation of JAINA
P. O. Box 700
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Jains,

It is indeed a pleasure and a privilege to watch so many JAINA volunteers selflessly promoting various JAINA activities. Let me mention just a few of them:

- Pathshala teacher's conference was held in Los Angeles with the support of Jain Center of Southern California, Los Angeles. Attended by Teachers from 26 North American Jain Centers.
- Celebration of Ahimsa Varsh: Started with Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan Program in Edison N.J. on March 13-14, 2002.
- United Nations Celebration of Mahavirs Message meeting. 165 members participated, of which at least 40 Non-jain members were present and shared their views on Ahimsa. Thanks to Arvind Vora and Jain Center of America, New York for organizing this program successfully.
- First Nation wide video JAINA broadcast presentation on TV Asia on March 28th 2002. **The theme was Mahavir's message and the broadcast was graced by the messages from Gurudev Shri Chitrabhanuji and Dr. N. P. Jain**

• Beginning of JAINA Day Program at Jain Center of Chicago in the form of Town Hall meeting March 31st 2002. Mr. Dilip V. Shah is planning more meetings nationwide. Mr. Ramesh Shah's "efforts for hospital supplies to India" was very much appreciated by members of local center.

• Our plans are underway to broadcast via internet on topics like "let's visit Delwada Temples" or "the lecture series for Paryushan parva" or "How similar is Jainism and modern science" etc.

• Preparation for 2003 JAINA Convention in Cincinnati is in full force. I am very proud of our convention team, which is a remarkable mix of young and old JAINA volunteers.

• JAINA Pilgrimage Committee is preparing for 2003 Samet Sikhar Yatra. Please register early as seats are limited and registration is strictly by first come first served basis.

• JAINA has started a fund raising campaign for aid for relief to people in Gujarat for devastating effects due to communal riots. Please see on page 11 for complete details.

Now lets talk about representation of prominent Jain traditions: **There are too many misconceptions about the role of JAINA Temple Guidelines.**

To begin with Temple layout is an inherently internal matter for any Jain center. JAINA can only show various ways a temple or Jain Shrine with a Hindu temple can be designed. To a large extent the design depends on economics, composition of a center by tradition and local and state government regulations. Hence the Executive committee of JAINA has requested Temple guidelines committee to come up with multiplicity of guidelines so various needs are fulfilled.

To help small to medium size Jain Centers contemplating building of new temples, we already have requested all major centers to share their expertise with other centers to help in fund raising, designing and organizational matters.

On a sad note, we have just learned of an auto accident in which Dr. Surendra Singhvi of Dayton & Cincinnati was seriously injured. All of us at JAINA wish him a speedy recovery.

We also regret passing of Kiran Vasa of Jain center of Southern California. He was one of the hosts during last month's Pathshala conference. His loss will surely be felt by Jain Community of North America.

Again, as always, I want to hear from you any constructive feedback. We want to take JAINA to maximum height that we can. I would like to listen and learn from all fellow Jains as I try to fulfill my duties as your President. Please send your e-mail to me at dmdmrch@core.com.

Jai Jinendra !



Bipin D. Parikh, President

HEADQUARTERS NEWS....

JAINA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS IN CHICAGO

Members present: Executive committee: Bipin Parikh, Anop Vora, Kirit Daftary, Girish Shah, Uday Jain and Ilaben Mehta

Directors: Manibhai Mehta, Prabodh Vaidya, Pravin Shah, Ramesh Shah and Dilip Shah.

Guests: Rekhaben Parikh, Niranjana Shah, President of JSMC, Mukesh Doshi, Pravin Shah of Chicago.

1. Meeting was started with Navkar mantra.
2. Treasure read his financial report.
3. Request was made to increase the fees from the committee to sustain JAINA. One of the possibilities was to increase fees or allot administrative charges to those who use the JAINA head quarter the most.
4. Directors at Large: Dr. Bipinbhai Parikh proposed following names seconded by Kirit Daftary: The executive committee approved the nomination of following Directors at Large for the current term.

Mrs. Pramodaben Chitrabhanu, Mr. Shantilal Shah, Mr. Virendra Shah, Mr. Samprati J. Shah, Dr. Sumti Shah, Mr. Sobhagya Khamesra, Mr. Atul Khara

5. YJA reported their activities of up coming convention in July 2002. Ramesh Shah reported that under Shram Yatra camp about 15 youth went to Kutch to help build a home for the earthquake affected victims. The camp was a success, which may be repeated in the future.

6. JAINA 2003 Convention: Anop Vora, the next convener and Ms. Soha Shah the President of Cincinnati Jain Society, and Dr. Surendra Singhvi, co-conveners presented information about upcoming convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. It was suggested that Columbus, Cleveland and Louisville Sangh should also be invited to actively participate in the convention.

7. World community services. Ramesh Shah reported that WCS have sent several containers of medical equipment to India. They also have an ambitious goal of sending 2600 wheel chairs to India to mark 2600th birth anniversary of Mahavir Bhagwan.

8. Temple Guidelines Committee: It was felt that the current guidelines do not represent many issues at hand. It was necessary to create new guidelines. To create true unity among all major five sects, we should request existing Temple Guideline committee to appoint 3 members from each traditions of Shwetambar Murti pujak, Digambar Murti pujak, Sthankwasi, Terapanthi and followers of Shrimad Rajchandra. They have been assigned the task to define the problem, expand the committee, revisit the guidelines to justify the existing position and to create the multiple guidelines for physical building only.

Once approved these proposed guidelines will be signed off by all of the committee members and current JAINA executive committee before it becomes final. The current guidelines need not be used till new guidelines are approved. Dr. Manibhai Mehta, the past president of JAINA pointed out that per Article X, Item III of JAINA constitution that financial aid cannot be awarded unless it is approved by 2/3 of majority of the directors.

9. Bidada Trust: Dr. Manibhai Mehta reported that they have treated about 2 million patients in 20 years at the health camp in Bidada, Kutch. People attend Camp from Kutch, Gujarat, and Rajasthan. Over 25 doctors from US man this multi specialty health camp. Jain Society of Southern California subsidizes half of the camp's cost of \$80,000; their single largest donor contributes about \$25,000/year on a regular basis.

10. Membership committee: Kamlesh Shah, Membership Committee Chairman has been forwarded with membership guidelines for review and approval.

11. Samarpan Jain Sangh and Samarpan Hindu Temple: There is a need to have two centers in larger metropolitan area. We will request them to send us their constitution, list of executive members and membership list so that both can be part of JAINA.

12. JAINA Calendar committee: They have sent out 3 books to establish mini library in all households. It was felt that the committee should have more people to select books. These books should be reviewed and written report with the recommendations should be presented to the executive committee. Only the approved books by executive committee should be distributed. Girish Shah and Pravin Shah (Chicago) volunteered to review books.

13. JAINA Day: This is supposed to bring awareness of JAINA to local centers. Ramesh Shah will revise and update current copy of JAINA at a glance. EC approved \$1000 for the production of this material.

14. JAIN Digest: Dilip Shah reported that they have been able to lower printing costs by 25% by diligent efforts of our editor, Lataben Champsee. Full-page advertising rates are revised to \$1250, with 20% premium for the last page. Eight pages of advertisements will make JAIN Digest financially independent. There have been varied interests from various sectors for advertising in Jain Digest.

15. Teerthodhar committee: Kirit Daftary reported on the latest developments of construction of school in Lachwar Bihar. There is already an enrollment of 700 students from surrounding area. There is still shortfall of \$50,000 for the construction of the school.

Next meeting will be held in July in Cincinnati. Meeting was adjourned with Khamemi Save Jiva.

SYMBOLIC CELEBRATION

Arvind Vora, Kings Park, NY

With the end of the First World War, the idea and reality of the League of Nations took center stage to establish Peace.¹ In spite of hard work by many leaders, the League of Nations, and thereby Peace, became a casualty ensued by World War II, the symbolic idea of Peace was still high on the agenda and hence the establishment of the UN. The vision of peace through the United Nations has held up for more than half a century.

The only place where more than 200 world leaders with many differences come together is the unique United Nations the City of New York. It is a symbolism, a new beginning to understand each other, to avoid conflict, and thereby prevent violence.

When JAINA President Bipin Parikh called me in late February that Gurudev Chitrabhanu wanted to have Mahavir Swami's 2600th Birth Anniversary celebration at the United Nations on April 25, 2002, my immediate reaction was positive. My quick suggestions were: unique invitation, unique location, unique gathering, unique message.

JAINA, Jain Center of America (JCA), LIMFF (Long Island Multi-Faith Forum) representing twelve faiths and TOU² (Temple of Understanding – Dr. Karan Singh is Chairman) were brought together to represent United Nations of religions. Therefore the invitation was from eight key people, two from each of the above four organizations.

The program began with a recital of Navkar Mantra. Then Gurudev Chitrabhanu recited slokas of Mahavir Swami. Greetings and activity reports were presented by Sister Joan Kirby (TOU), Dr. Panna Shah (LIMFF), Bipin Parikh (JAINA), and Dr. Dilip Mukhtyar and Hemant Shah (JCA).

Broader and more intense remarks were made by two international scholars, Dr. Kumarpal Desai and Hon. N. P. Jain. Specific topic presentations were made by two national scholars, Rajni Shah (Paryushana Parva) and Chandrakant Mehta (Samayik).

Youth scholars Ronak Shah and Sanjay Mehta made remarks on the relevance of Jainism in the business world and in the modern society.

Pratibha Pragya, one of two Samanijis from Texas, succinctly delivered the message of Jainism, while Samani Jagat Pragya thrilled the audience with Acharya Maha Pragya's song "Jiski Aaj Jaroorat Usne Kyun Pahle Avtar Liya."

Two relevant songs were presented – one by Rhonda Strieby ("Bridge Over Troubled Waters" alluding to violence engulfing humanity over the entire planet, while a youth star singer, Toral Shah, who captivated the audience at the Edison, New Jersey celebration, repeated the hit song "Amazing Grace" in a tribute to September 11.

Dr. Jairamanji, Executive Director of Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan, a scholarly multifaceted personality and life-long proponent of Indian values, delivered in brief the most important message of Mahavir "Ahimsa," while the Chief Deputy Consul, Rudy Warjri indicated all Indians should be very proud, indeed everyone on the earth, for the message of Ahimsa, which in practical terms, were utilized by Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela for a positive change for humankind.

Four representatives of different faiths were recognized by Gurudev for their efforts to further understanding among all faiths.

They were Rev. Msgr. Donald Beckmann (Roman Catholic Christian), Rev. Mark Bigelow (Protestant Christian), Werner Reich (Judaism), Raj Singh (Sikhism). Dr. Faroque Khan (Islam) could not attend because of a prior commitment of lectures outside the U.S.A.

A check for \$13,001 was presented to the Uniformed Firefighters Association for Widows and Children's Fund (9-11). At the same

time in the spirit of Aparigraha, two donations, each of \$2,600, were made by Doctors Panna/Jitendra Shah and Dr. Girish/Jyoti Shah to promote multi-faith values.

The presentation part was concluded by recitations of Stuti by Smt. Pramodaben Chitrabhanu, who specially came from Bombay a day before for the event (at the author's request).

In a symbolic way Chaturvidh Sangh was present, people from every faith, every age group also symbolically took part. A book to commemorate the event is under consideration.

A vegetarian Jain dinner, Swamivatsalya, an event unique to Jains, was served. Each one received a symbolic pendant specially made for this occasion and Jain books, JAINA calendar, and other printed materials.

In Picture: Gurudev Chitrabhanu presenting donations(9-11 fund) cheque to firefighters. Left to right Bipin Parikh, Dr. Mahendra Pandya, Firefighter, Arvind Vora



AHIMSA VARSH CELEBRATION

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, USA, in collaboration with JAINA and YJA, arranged a most fitting program in North America, marking the culmination of AHIMSA VARSH - 2600th Birth Anniversary of Bhagwan Mahavir. The two-day event at the Royal Albert Palace in Fords, New Jersey, on April 13 and 14 was like a mini-JAINA Convention. Monks, dignitaries, scholars, singers, dancers, politicians and children participated. The celebration made possible for more than 2,000 attendees to review and learn the message of Bhagwan Mahavir with the festivity and the joy of a birthday party.

Originally scheduled for September of last year but cancelled due to the September 11th tragedy, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan doubled its efforts and put together a large coalition of international organizations such as Institute of Jainology, U.K.; World Jain Confederation, India; Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation, Chennai, India; JAINA, YJA and JMIC, New York; and many Jain Centers in North America. Under the able leadership of Dr. P. Jayraman, Executive Director of Bhavan, all these organizations and the invited guests performed together like a well-tuned orchestra. Hundreds of volunteers brought about the whole event smoothly and incredibly on time.

The inaugural function on the Saturday morning started with Benediction by Gurudev Chitrabhanuji. Then Dr. Navin Mehta, Chairman of the Celebration Committee, welcomed everyone. The keynote speech was given by Dr. L.M.Singhvi, the Chairman of the International Celebration Committee formed by Bhavan. All the monks and the scholars spoke on the central theme of Ahimsa. Scholarly discourses were presented by Dr. N. P. Jain, Dr. Kumarpal Desai, Amrendra Muniji; Devendra Keertiji, Sadhvi Shilapi Ji, Samani Charitra Pragyaji and many others.

Three books released: A spectacular book of photographs and an essay by Dr. L. M. Singhvi titled *Jain Temples in India and Around the World*; a collection of essays by Dr. N.P. Jain: *Ahimsa: the Ultimate Winner*; and *Jainism: A Tribute to Ahimsa: Images and Reflections*, edited by Dr. P. Jayraman.

Photographic Exhibition: Mahendra Visaria of Bombay brought a collection of 200 photographs showing art and architecture of Jain Temples of India that was a breathtaking experience - that can only be experienced and not described. Also on view was a model of the Astapad Mountain by the Jain Center of America in Queens, New York.

YJA game show "Who Wants to be Mahavir," eagerly awaited by the youngsters, pleased everyone. The evening cultural program was started with a tribute to September 11th. Toral Shah's singing of "Amazing Grace" and "I Will Remember You" set the tone for the evening. Dance Drama of Chandanbala choreographed by Rachna Sarang and aided by invited musicians and singers from India was the high note of the day. Other presentations, by the Jain Center of America and Jain Center of New Jersey, were also very well received. The evening ended with Bhakti Sangeet by Mrs. Shobha Joshi and her troupe from Bombay.



The Sunday program started with Bhakti sangeet by Shri Anop Jalota. In the afternoon there were programs from pathshala children from the Cherry Hill Jain Sangh and Jain Samaj of New Jersey. YJA provided a one act play: Kasturi Mrug

written by Dr. Bharat Shah of Long Island, NY. Shri Pratap Bhogilal of World Jain Confederation and Shri Mahesh Shah of Institute of Jainology gave congratulatory speeches, as did Congressman Frank Pallone. Dr. Bipin Parikh, President of JAINA thanked Dr. Jayraman and Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan for holding the celebration with such gusto, dignity and grace.

A beautiful souvenir issued for the celebration, with a cover picture of Mahavir Swami's towering moorti. from Ahimsa Sthal in New Delhi, must be a collector's item by now. Dr. Mahendra Pandya, former President of JAINA, was honored with the Ahimsa Ratna Award. Sewa Ratna and Awards of Excellence were given to various illustrious personalities. Sumptuous vegetarian food, lots of smiles and unanimous praise reflected Bhavan's dedication to the celebration. The various informational booths in the lobby - World Community Service of JAINA, YJA, Book Stands, Jain Viswa Bharti) - were set up where people gathered and made new friends or renewed old relationships.

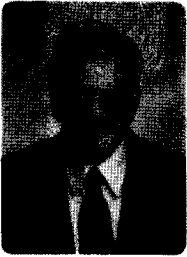
The audience was invited at the end to perform a very noble act: To sign a pledge of Ahimsa. The sight of young and old stretching their hand to receive the pledge form, the frantic search for pen to sign their name, and the voices of Gurudev Shri Chitrabhanuj and Dr. N. P. Jain, reciting the pledge, will not happen again on this land soon but the message, the teaching, and the harmonic vibrations of that day will live on forever. The pledge is reprinted on the following page for all those who were not able to attend the celebration.

By Dilip V. Shah, Philadelphia. PA

PEOPLE IN NEWS:

On the occasion of Ahimsa Varsh Celebration Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan honoured some of the leading personalities who have dedicated themselves to the promotion of Ahimsa in the world community, and serving the Indian community, through the preservation and furtherance of Indian culture, values and education. Bhavan bestowed on some individuals Ahimsa Ratna and Sewa Ratna Awards.

AHIMSA RATNA AWARD



Dr. Mahendra K. Pandya was awarded Ahimsa Ratna Award. The 66 year old Dr. Pandya is a first generation American. He came to America in 1966 after completion of his MD (medicine). Dr. Pandya's involvement with Jainism is not something new. He says, "Obviously, distance makes the heart grow fonder. But right from the beginning I have adhered to the precepts and principles of Jainism, whether in India or abroad.

Incidentally, Dr. Pandya was the founder member of the first JAINA unit in New York and he was also involved with establishing the first Jain temple in New York. What is JAINA? Dr. Pandya patiently explains, "There is a sizable population of Jains in the US, but scattered as they were, they hardly interacted in any significant way. So though there were several unitary bodies, there was no single unifying body. JAINA filled this vacuum. Established in 1981, JAINA is the umbrella organization that guides and combines all Jain centers in North America and Canada."

Dr. Pandya, the former President of JAINA has made it his life's mission to bring together all Jains irrespective of their language, region or tradition.

AHIMSA RATNA AWARD



Devendra Tokarshi Peer was born in Bombay in a Jain family. "Peer" means a spiritual person. "Peer" was a title given to forefathers who were thought to possess "spiritual powers".

As President of Samarpan Jain Sangh he took initiative to host the 10th JAINA Convention in Philadelphia in 1999. With Gurudev Chitrabhanu, Father Valles and Poet Makarand Dave as speakers and teacher, this convention took Jain philosophy to a higher level of visibility and understanding.

Besides practising as a Certified Public Accountant, Devendra also spends his time understanding this message. He has been instrumental in establishing, under his wife, Dr. Meeta Peer's leadership, a Modern Rehabilitation Center in Pune, India. He has been a member of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan since he was a student.

In 1999 Devendra wrote a play based on Kulpati Munshi's historic novel Patan-Ni-Prbhuta depicting the periodics of Gujarat's history when the philosophy of Non-violence began to be incorporated into the daily lives of people; Non-violence, not as a refuge of the cowards, but as an ornament of the brave. The full-length play with 17 characters was staged at the Jain Convention in Philadelphia.

INTERNATIONAL JAIN SANGH AWARD TO DR. DHIRAJ SHAH



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

The Award for Excellence for the year 2002 was given to Dr. Dhiraj H. Shah, former President of JAINA - in recognition of his leadership in promoting principles of Jainism worldwide through humanitarian efforts. In accepting the Award, Dhirajbhai stressed that his was a team effort and the award belonged to all those volunteers who helped to bring relief to the victims of tragedies - earthquake in Gujarat, Uttarkashi (U.P.), Maharashtra, Northridge (CA); Cyclone in Orissa and Kandala and Mississippi river flood etc.

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

PEOPLE IN NEWS:

JAIN STORYTELLER AT THE SMITHSONIAN

Jain storyteller, Surabhi Shah was invited to perform at the Smithsonian's Freer Gallery of Asian Art in Washington, DC. The performance was part of a weekend-long Storytelling Festival at the Freer, May 18-19, 2002, with professional storytellers sharing tales from throughout Asia. At this event, Surabhi chose to focus exclusively on Jain stories.

"Through her stories she conveyed principles and spirit of Jainism to [an audience] who probably knew nothing about the religion. Her voice, eyes, movement of hands and body, and singing were used so effectively to enchant, glue the audience," noted Museum scholar, Erika Masuoka.

Surabhi's signature style of weaving *stavans* and scriptures into the fabric of her stories is inspired by early memories of Jain *vyakhans* (sermons). In these colorful sermons, the *sadhvi* or *sadhu* would use stories to illustrate, to educate and to entertain. Stories were sprinkled with sung verses of the relevant scriptures, call and response, stories within stories, all to keep the faithful *shravikas-shravaks* engaged and alert."

In our lives today, Surabhi asserts, Jain stories are more relevant than ever. "In college or at work, friends were interested in my religion. Stories helped them to understand unfamiliar Jain concepts such as *aparigraha* (non-attachment) and *anekantvad* (the multifaceted nature of existence). Stories are also an effective and enjoyable way to share Jain concepts within our community. When I learn a Jain principle through a story, I've noticed that it has a greater impact on me...it sticks with me."

Surabhi was born in the US and raised in Canada. Years later, in North Carolina, she met celebrated storyteller Louise Omoto Kessel through the Five Faiths Project of the Ackland Museum of Art. Louise's unique and subtle guidance had a profound influence on Surabhi; soon, she wanted to share her new skills with the Jain community. She invited Louise to lead a workshop at the Jain Pathshala Teacher's workshop in Raleigh in 1998. To help her wedding guests understand the ceremony in cultural context, Surabhi even requested Louise to perform a story during her wedding!

With friend and collaborator, Jina Shah, Surabhi facilitated a Jain Storytelling workshop at JAINA 1999 in Philadelphia and a Creative Performance workshop at JAINA 2001 in Chicago. The enthusiastic response from the community has fueled her desire to craft a five-story performance piece focused on women of Jainism. In her local community, Surabhi has performed Jain stories at events supporting survivors of domestic violence and festivals promoting environmental causes.

UNIVERSITY MEDAL AWARDED TO SHAYNA PAREKH

Amongst 10,000 students graduating this year from University of California, Berkeley, Shayna Parekh was honored as a top graduate and awarded the University Medal in recognition of her impressive academic achievement and exemplary public service,

both in the USA and in India.

"Each year, UC Berkeley awards one graduating senior the University Medal for academic excellence and outstanding community involvement. University Chancellor Robert Berdahl presented the University Medal to Shayna at the Commencement Convocation on May 17. Shayna dedicated her convocation



speech to the millions "who have suffered, and who will continue to suffer and die because, quite simply, the rest of us have failed to understand." Quoting a Chinese proverb – it is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness, she urged her fellow graduates to "use your knowledge to light the candle and defeat the darkness for the benefit of others."

Graduating with a double major in political science and interdisciplinary studies, Shayna plans to spend a year in India working at Veerayatan. Later, she hopes to enroll at the London School of Economics and pursue a graduate degree in social planning in developing countries.

Sadhvi Shilapiji wrote in her recommendation for Shayna. "Shayna organized and supervised evening reading and writing courses, inspiring the laborers to start on their journey to literacy. Shayna also worked tirelessly to break the gender barrier as she, through many days of discussion, convinced fathers to allow their illiterate daughters to attend reading and writing courses. Shayna worked at the local YMCA and the Oakland Elizabeth House, serving as a tutor and mentor to underprivileged children.

Shayna is the daughter of Chandrakant and Hasmita Parekh of Cerritos, California. Chandrakant is the West Region Editor of the Jain Digest. Shayna attended the Pathshala at the Jain Center of Southern California and served as a President of its Jain Center Youth Council. It is interesting to note that two of the six finalists were from the Jain Center of Southern California, namely, Shayna, and Rishi, son of Ramesh and Bindi Doshi.

12TH BIENNIAL JAINA CONVENTION

by Surendra Singhvi, Cincinnati, OH

JAINA has accepted the invitation of the Jain Center of Cincinnati & Dayton to host the 2003 Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. The convention will start in the afternoon of July 3 (Thursday) and end in the afternoon of July 6 (Sunday).

JAINA and the Jain Center of Cincinnati & Dayton have jointly formed 2003 JAINA Convention Board (JCB) consisting of seven members –two representing JAINA Executive Committee, two representing the 2001 Chicago Convention and three representing the Jain Center of Cincinnati & Dayton. The JAINA Executive Committee approved the JCB on March 23, 2002 in Chicago. Below is a brief description of the JCB members and their responsibilities:

1. Anop Vora is the convener of the convention. He is currently the First Vice President of JAINA and a former treasurer of JAINA. He resides in Rochester, NY. His telephone number is 716-473-9290. (vora5000@yahoo.com)

2. Surendra Singhvi is a co-convener of the convention and JAINA director from the Jain Center of Cincinnati & Dayton. He is a former treasurer of JAINA and the founding president of the local center. He resides in Dayton and his telephone no. is 937-885-7414. surendra_singhvi@hotmail.com

3. Soha Shah is a co-convener of the convention, and the immediate past president of the Jain Center of Cincinnati & Dayton. She is the first youth co-convener of JAINA convention. She resides in Piqua, Ohio and her telephone no. is 937-773-3906 sohashah@hotmail.com

4. Bipin D. Parikh is the current president of JAINA and a former convener of the 2001 JAINA convention. He was a trustee of the Jain Society of Metropolitan Chicago.

5. Keerti N. Shah is a trustee at the Jain Society of Metropolitan Chicago. He was the chairman of Finance Committee of the 2001 JAINA convention. He will

oversee the financial matters of the 2003 Convention.

6. Samprati Shah is a trustee at the Jain Society of Metropolitan Chicago and was the chairman of Program committee of the 2001 JAINA convention. He will oversee the programming matters of the 2003 convention.

7. Mahesh Shah is the chairman of the Jain Center of Cincinnati & Dayton Trustee Board and the past president of the local center. He chairs the fund raising committee of the 2003 convention. He resides in Dayton, Ohio.

In accordance with JAINA convention guidelines, JAINA Executive Committee has appointed the Convention Activity Review and Advisory Committee consisting of Ravindra Kobawala from Chicago, Arvind Vora from New York, Satish Seth from L.A.

and all past presidents with present president Bipin Parikh acting as its chairman. The committee is charged with the responsibility of oversight of all activities that are planned for the 2003 JAINA convention.

The theme for the 2003 convention is “Jainism –The Art of Living”. A logo is being prepared.

Registration is proposed in four stages. Early Bird registration will be between October 15, 2002 and January 15, 2003. Registration forms will be available in the fall issue of Jain Digest.

Cincinnati Convention Center has been reserved as the site of the convention, which can accommodate upto 10,000 individuals. The center is connected through sky walk with five hotels with 2500 rooms. The center has space for 100 exhibition booths. JCB is preparing guidelines that will be followed for acceptance of proposals from Jain organizations and for –profit businesses.

JCB is organizing the 2003 convention so that it provides the North American Jain Community the unique learning experience and enjoyable cultural programs. Participation of all member Jain centers would be required to make such a convention the best ever. JCB will be requesting all Jain centers for cooperation in planning the convention activities which would include discourses on topics that are relevant to the practice of Jainism, Jain rituals, cultural program and youth activities.

Without the financial support of our community, the convention can't succeed. JCB intends to raise approximately \$250,000 through donations for the convention. Fund raising efforts for the convention will begin soon. If you would like to help in fund raising or bringing advertisements for the souvenir book, please contact the JCB members.

If you have any suggestions or would like to help us in various activities that are being planned, please contact the convener or co-conveners.

(continued from page 14)

So Tap means to accept the happy or unhappy situations as they arise. There is no welcome for unhappy life, but one needs to be prepared for accepting unhappiness when it occurs. Tap consists of remaining calm and cool under all circumstances without indulging in the sense of euphoria under favorable circumstances or the sense of resentment or depression in unfavorable ones. Whatever hardships or discomfort may occur, the true observer of Tap remains unaffected. Tap thus consists of passing through the duality of happiness and unhappiness without being affected by either of them.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

JAINA YATRA 2003 - SAMETSHIKHAR

The Pilgrimage Committee of JAINA is planning a pilgrimage of Sametsikhar and other Tirthdhams. We expect to leave for the two-week pilgrimage on or about January 17, 2003

Teerthyatra for Jains is a way of revitalizing the soul that has been tired due to worldly chores. This pilgrimage will take us to Delhi, Hastinapur, Shouryapuri (Agra), Ayodhya, Ratnapuri, Varanasi, Champapuri, Lachhwad, Rajgir, Veerayatan, Pawapuri, Nalanda, Bodhi Gaya, Shikharji and Calcutta. This plan covers visiting more than 75 Kalyanak Bhoomis and a few distinguished Jain institutions. Most of the traveling will be by train and we will be staying in Dharamsalas or hotels depending on the availability.

Detailed itinerary is still being worked out. Registration forms and more details will be posted on JAINA website (jaina.org) in August and in the next issue of JAIN DIGEST The pilgrims will meet in Delhi to begin the Yatra and disperse in Calcutta. You will make your own arrangements to fly to India and back. For further information, contact:

Dilip V. Shah, 1902 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103
or dilipvshah@aol.com

JAIN DIGEST LIFE MEMBER UPDATE

- 651U Ramesh and Naina Shah, Diamond Bar, CA
- 652U Priti B. Shah, Edison, NJ
- 653U Dilip and Ranjan Punatar, Bellbrook, OH
- 654U Hemendra and Daksha Patel, Livingston, NJ
- 655U Prakash and Ila Doshi, Walnut, CA
- 656U Dharendra and Priti Mehta, Fort Myers, FL
- 657U Mukund and Hansa Shah, Parkersburg, WV
- 658U Jayantilal and Jyotsna Sanghvi, Naples, FL
- 659U Kanti and Palavi Shah, North Bergen, NJ
- 660U Himesh and Alpa Shah, Plano, TX
- 661U Virendra and Kalpana Shah, Dayton, NJ
- 662U Subodh and Sadhana Mehta, East Haven, CT

This is a list of new Jain Digest life members whose dues were received upto May 20, 2002. Please send your \$101.00 Jain Digest life membership dues to Keerti Shah, 842 Lakeside Drive, Bartlett Illinois 60103, Phone: 630-837-8716.

ATLANTIC JAIN SANGH PRATISTHA MAHOSAV

The ATLANTIC JAIN SANGH cordially invites everyone to the Pratistha Mahotsav. The three-day Mahotsav is from July 12 to July 14th and will be under the spiritual guidance of Gurudev Chitrabhanuji. Vidhikarak Shri Narendra Nandu and his group. For further information please contact Kundanben Ghelani at (609)748-0032

AHIMSA DAY CELEBRATION (October 6, 2002)

Ahimsa (or non-violence) is the most important principle of Jainism. The followers practice Ahimsa in thoughts, words and actions. In 1991 JAINA decided to celebrate the Ahimsa Day on the first Sunday in October each year to coincide with Mahatma Gandhi's birthday. The purpose of the celebration is to promote the principle of non-violence with the objective of achieving peace and goodwill in the world.

The Federation consists of 57 Jain centers. The celebration by local Jain centers include activities such as serving food to homeless people, organizing talks, interfaith panel discussions on Ahimsa, youth participation by writing essays on Ahimsa, and practicing Ahimsa by controlling AGED (i.e. Anger, Greed, Ego and Deceit).

These celebrations throughout North America are encouraged and coordinated by Dr. Surendra Singhvi of Jain Center of Cincinnati & Dayton (937-885-7414). A lot of Jains been assisting him over the last 11 years _Mrs. Chanchala Mehta of Memphis, Mr. Suresh Shah of St. Louis, Dr. Salgia from Columbus, Ohio, Dr. Manoj Dharamsi from Washington, D.C., Dr. Dhiraj Shah of Buffalo, Mr. Narendra Sheth from San Diego, Dr. Sulekh Jain from Houston, Mr. Shanti Shah from Siddhachalam, Mrs. Seema Jain from Chicago, Mr. Dilip Punatar from Dayton, Dr. Surendra Sethi from Pittsburgh, Mr. Ramesh Shah from Cleveland, etc.

To facilitate these celebrations by local Jain centers, the committee provides information on Ahimsa Day which includes videos, articles and books related to non-violence and vegetarianism.

One of the goals of the committee is to seek proclamation for Ahimsa Day at the local, state and federal government levels. Such proclamation creates awareness about Jainism, Lord Mahavir, non-violence and vegetarianism. Since 1991, proclamations have been issued by several city mayors, and state governors and the U.S. President. The eleventh annual celebration of Ahimsa Day will be organized on October 6, 2002. May the Ahimsa Day approach bring peace in the world.

Surendra Singhvi, Chairman
Ahimsa Day Celebration Committee

COMMITTEE NEWS:

JAINA PUBLICATION COMMITTEE (JPC)

After establishing JAINA Library and JAINA Education System, JAINA Publication Committee is planning to publish Jain Games for children age 2 and up. JPC is also working on the project with Shri Ashutosh Gokani and Shri Harish Bhimani to illustrate Jain stories in Animation, or Audio. JPC plans to come out with a 20 minute animation story on Kshamapana (Story of King Udayan) within next three months. So those parents, grandparents, uncles and aunties and those who desire to do praabhavna of such Jain Sanskar should contact Premchand Gada at gadaprem@hotmail.com or gadapb9jafna@pol.net. This will give us some understanding on the quantity required. We welcome donations to sponsor this project. Preparation of one story in animation and duplication for distribution of 1000 CD will cost us around \$5000.

JPC is also working with www.jainworld.com to publish web based learning of Jainism where any individual from any corner of the world can learn Jainism from his/her home. This web site will also have Jain Library (in the beginning about 40 books in English and more to come out and is also working to upload books in Gujarati, Hindi and other languages) on line to support Jain learning. The website will also have self testing to see how much one knows and will have suggestive charts to keep track on how much has been achieved in personal life.

List of some of the Jain Games and Books in consideration	
Animation Story books (25 stories)	(for age 2 and up)
Puzzle Games	(for age 2 and up)
Memory Cards (Matching) Game	(for age 2 and up)
ABCD Cards on Jainism	(for age 2 and up)
Trivia Game – 1000 cards	(for age 7 and up)
Karmalogy	(for age 5 and up)
Go up and Down (ladder and Slide)	(for age 3 and up)
My first Jain Pictorial Book	(for age 2 and up)
My Jain temples book	(for age 2 and up)
Story Books (28 pages - (80 % picture)	(For age 2 and up)
My Jain Words Dictionary	(for age 3 and up)

For further information please contact:

Premchand Gada, Chairperson

JAINA Publication Committee (JPC)

Federation of Jain Associations In North America

8605 - Vicksburg Avenue ,Lubbock TX 79424

Phone: (806) 794-4777 or

at gadaprem@hotmail.com or gadapb9jafna@pol.net

MAHAVIR MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Mahavir Jayanti was celebrated for the first time at the Indian Embassy on April 28, 2002. The 2601st Birth Anniversary of Bhagvan Mahavir was celebrated on Sunday, April 28, 2002 at the residence of the ambassador of India, Lalit Mansinghji. It was jointly sponsored by the Embassy of India and the Jain Community of North America represented by JAINA and the Jain Society of Metropolitan Washington. This unique celebration was attended by 300 persons including leaders of different faiths from the Interfaith Organizations of Metropolitan Washington, and JAINA delegates. The program started with singing of Jain prayers by Dr. Manoj Dharamsi followed by an excellent welcome speech by H.E. Ambassador Lalit Mansinghji. A special message for Mahavir Jayanti received from President George W. Bush was read by Dr. Sushil Jain, Vice President of JAINA. A youth, Tejas Doshi, gave an excellent presentation on "Mahavir and his teachings" which was very well received. It was followed by two prayer dances performed by young. The program ended with a vote of thanks and presentation of a set of Jain books to the ambassador. The program was followed by refreshments.

Dr. Manoj Dharamsi, Chairman

VIRCHAND RAGHAVJI GANDHI SCHOLARSHIP

After review of more than 20 applications through our India based subcommittee (Chair Person Dr. Jitendra B. Shah) three scholarships are awarded for year 2001-02 to:

1. Jain Sushma Ph.D. in Jainology & Prakrit M.L.S.U., Udaipur
Rs. 3,500.
2. Shah Pinkal P. M. Phil. Jain Darshan Int. Center for Jain Studies, G. Vidyapith, A'bad
Rs. 6,000.
3. Shah Dhanendra K. M. Phil. Jain Darshan Int. Center for Jain studies, G. Vidyapith, A'bad
Rs. 6,000.

Our thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Kishor Mehta, for their donation of Rs. 50,000 for printing and publishing 2000 books on life of VRG. This book was released at 11th JAINA Convention held in Chicago and distributed free at convention and thereafter.

Our Objective of Scholarship is now expanded to include:

a. United States of America. b. Sadhus/Sadhavis, studying at accredited institute will be considered.

c. Research studies in work of VRG's unpublished literature.

To start VRG memorial lecture series is under consideration.

For further information and comments please contact Pravin C. Shah Ph.# 516-248-8265; email kenpet007@hotmail.com

COMMITTEE NEWS:

WORLD COMMUNITY SERVICES:

JAINA LAUNCHES FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN FOR THE GUJARAT COMMUNAL RIOTS VICTIMS RELIEF FUND

It is sad to inform you that Mahatma Gandhi's Gujarat has lost the spirit of Ahimsa and Anekant, twin pillars of Jainism and the essence of Lord Mahavir's Message.

In the last two months, communal riots have taken the lives of more than one thousand people, tens of thousands are injured and more than one hundred thousand people are in refugee camps near Ahmedabad and other places.

We, the followers of Ahimsa and Anekant cannot sit idly and watch this carnage. Please send your tax-deductible (IN USA) contribution, payable to JAINA and mail to: Prakash Mehta 2960 Mother Well Court, Oak Hill, VA 20171.

For further information, please contact the following World Community Service representatives:

B. S. Ajmera 301-924-8070	Prakash Mehta 703-352-8340	Bhadresh Dhila 304-570-1117
Dr. Dhiraj Shah 716-773-1314	Dr. Bipin Parikh 847-699-1294	

EARTHQUAKE DONORS LIST UPDATE:

Donations received upto January 31, 2002	\$552,164
1 India Earthquake Relief Organizations of Michigan	\$ 37,500
2 Hindu Temple Society Allentown PA	3,500
3 Dr. Lal Shobhan Northport NY	2,500
4 Hinduamerican Religious Institute New Cumberland PA	700
5 Mr. Shah Harshad Bharti Mokena IL	251
6 Ms Mehta Hetal Westlake OH	121
7 Mr. Deliwala Bhupendra Pallavi Oviedo FL	101
8 Mr. Doshi Chetan Ketki Winfield IL	101
9 Mr. Parekh Manish Winter Spring FL	100
10 Mr. Amin Chandrakant Winter Spring FL	51
11 Mr. Doshi Mukesh Usha Schaumburg IL	51
12 Mr. Shah Niran IL	51
13 Mr. Tijoriwala AnilKumar Sudha Oviedo FL	51
14 Ms. Tolia Sushi Winter Spring FL	51
15 Mr. Sheth Panna Orlando FL	21
16. Retired & Senior Volunteer Program of Greater Cleveland, OH	14
Total	\$ 597,328

“Wheels Of Hope” (Asha Chakra) Program Is Making a Difference!

Following are some of the comments from the beneficiaries of Wheel Chairs distribution in Rajkot, Idar and Bidada(Kutch).

- **Sandhya Mehr, 28 yrs., Rajkot**
“ By receiving a wheel chair, It has made me independent. This will help in my studying for standard(grade) 10.”
 - **Vinubhai, Makwana, 52 yrs. Surendranaagr**
“ Now I do not have to crawl anymore. It will be easier for me now to handle my business.
 - **Sarojben Jadeja, 36 yrs. Amreli**
“ Before I had to walk on four legs. Now I can go to work as maid servant, go to bazaar.
 - **Manisha Bhatti, 18 yrs., Rajkot**
“Now my mom & dad will not have to lift me up in their arms anymore. I am encouraged more to study.
-
- **Rajkot Blood Bank** organized the Wheel Chair distribution ceremony at “Life” building in Rajkot on May 13th, 2002 in collaboration with Wheelchair Foundation, USA and American India Foundation, USA
 - **AtmaVallabh Hospital, Idar** held the Mega camp for distributing bicycles, wheel chairs, walkers, Jaipur foot, crutches, walking sticks and on May 10th, 2002. in Idar.
 - **Bidada Sarvodaya Trust, Kutch** is building Rehabilitation Center for disabled and amputees of 2001 earthquake.
 - **Ujjain Charitable Trust** is building 500 beds hospital with teaching facility for 150 medical students in Ujjain, MP.

At present, 10 Hospitals in India are beneficiaries of your donations and JAINA-WCS medical equipment & supplies program.

JAINA-World Community Services have shipped more than 500 wheel chairs, walkers, crutches, walking sticks, prosthetics and orthotics under Medical Equipment and Supplies division. JAINA also shipped lots of beds, mattresses, bed sheets, roller carts, pediatric cribs, tables, IV poles etc. JAINA has also shipped Mammogram machines, Ultra sound machine, EKG machines, Dental chairs, Xray machines etc.

In one year, we have shipped medical equipment and supplies worth more than \$1,000,000.

Ramesh Shah-Program Manager, Jain Center of Greater Cleveland (Tel.#440-442-4596 jshah6138@aol.com)
Bachubhai Ajmera, Chairman

*By Shree Gurudev Chitrabhanu***JAIN PATHSHALA TEACHERS' CONFERENCE**

JAINA Education Committee organized "Second Jain Pathshala Teachers' Conference 2002" at Los Angeles, CA on the Memorial Day weekend. The conference was hosted by the Jain Center of Southern California. There were 112 Pathshala teachers and educators from USA, Canada and Singapore. Twenty-seven Jain Centers from North America were represented at the conference. Thirty-one Jain families of Los Angeles area hosted the attending delegates and volunteers provided transportation. All the meals were provided by the center.

Three-day conference was full of activities that included thirty-two presentations, breakout sessions and educational material displays from several Jain Centers. Main theme of the conference was "Jain Education for Digital Generation". Topics of the presentations were divided into several themes that included Leveraging Technology, Creative ways of teaching Pathshala, Role of ascetics in Pathshala, Place for rituals and sutras in Pathshala, Role of adult swadhyay in Pathshala, Role of children and youth in Pathshala, Future youth projects, Importance of interfaith activities. Activities beyond Pathshala, Growth and evolution of Pathshalas in America.

Jain Education CD was distributed to all Pathshala teachers. The CD contains the following fifteen folders (478 files):

- 01 Jaina Education Material (Revised 7 Books)
- 02 Los Angeles Conf 2002 - Presentations
- 03 Jain Workshop Material
- 04 Life of Mahavir-swami
- 05 Ahimsa – several articles
- 06 Inspiration Stories
- 07 Comparative Religions
- 08 Rituals
- 09 Jain Articles
- 10 Reference Books (20)
- 11 Unique Jain and other Presentations
- 12 Graphics-Tirthankar Murtis
- 13 Graphics-Jain Tirths
- 14 Dreams of Trishala -Video files AVI

The Jain Education CD is available at cost of \$5.00 plus postage from the Jaina Education Committee chairperson Pravin K. Shah (pkshah1@attglobal.net) 919-859-4994. You can freely copy and distribute the CD to others.

Jain Center of Southern California managed the whole affair very well, and as a result it a very successful conference. Details of the conference will be available later.

Jain community in North America is growing rapidly and an increasing number of Jain Centers/Societies are planning to build temples in their communities in the coming years. Many individuals have inquired in the past and sought my guidance about the correct temple layout. As this is a very important issue, I would like to give my perspective based upon my participation in several temple ceremonies all over the world as well as what is prescribed in our scripture entitled "Pratistha Kalpa & Anjan Shalaka Vidhi". My perspective is also shared with the opinion of Muni Shree Jambuvijayji Maharaj, internationally renowned scholar and well-respected Jain monk in India.

Murties (Idols) :

This era belongs to Mahavirswami. He was the last Tirthankar whose teachings are well recorded. Our children-especially those brought up in the western world, can easily relate to him. They will be the future torch bearers and practioners of Jainism. This is the reason why I strongly recommend that the new temples be identified with Lord Mahavir instead of other tirthankars unless there is a good reason not to do so.

Please remember that the murties are for pooja and bhakti. People go to temple for their darshan. They are the reminders of Tirthankar's presence who inspired mankind with their living example of Right Vision, Right Knowledge, and Right Conduct. Darshan helps us bring out our own innate virtues and intrinsic qualities of our consciousness.

Traditionally the murties are always installed in the temple with the ceremony of Panch(five) Kalyanak (significant events in the life of a tirthankar) Pooja. This pooja is performed exclusively on the murties of tirthankaras and not on any other symbols.

The decisions about the number of murties, their location, and specific tradition should be based on fairness and mutual respect.

Orientation:

The murties should face towards East or towards North.

Navakar Mantra:

Navkar Mantra has been given to us by our sages for recitation, meditation, and for Aradhana. It is not for Pooja or idol worship. It would not be appropriate to use it in place of a murti.

Sthanakavasi philosophy calls for a sthanak (place) for Samayik and Pratikraman but not for the pooja of a murti or an idol. By installing Navakar Mantra in the Center, we are doing Tirthankar's ashatana and unknowingly making an idol of a great mantra. To prevent dispute and split in the Jain community, we need to avoid statues/idols of others except those of tirthankars.

THE CONCEPT OF TAP FROM A NEW PERSPECTIVE

Manu Doshi, Chicago, IL

*Samsantosajalenam Jo Dhovadi Tivva-Lohmal-Punjam
Bhoyan-Giddhi-Vihino Tassa Sa-Uchcham Have Vimalam
Samansuttam*

One, who washes the dirty lump of greediness with the water of equanimity and contentment, and who is free from the longing for food, attains the perfect purity.

The concept of Tap is normally considered in respect of six types of external austerities and six types of internal ones. The external Tap has more or less a negative approach, because its emphasis rests upon what not to eat, what to avoid and what not to wish for. The internal one has a more positive approach. But its two categories, Prayashchit and Kayotsarga, which deal with repentance of wrong deeds and giving up of worldly involvement, have a negative tinge. As such that too cannot be considered purely positive.

From a pure positive consideration, Tap can be defined as staying within the Self. Thereby one automatically remains aloof from all the wrong aspects. Eradication of Karma is the principal objective of undertaking Tap. That can be done by Samvar, which means preventing the influx of new Karma and by Nirjarā, which means shaking off the existing one. That objective is adequately covered within the above definition.

Karma mainly arises from the desire for sense objects. The desire arises from dissatisfaction with the existing conditions. But the theory of Karma specifically states that everyone gets what is due to him. The law of Karma is infallible. It extends to everyone the consequences of his Karma. As such, there is no reason to be dissatisfied by the conditions that we get. We, the worldly beings, are, however, never satisfied with what we have and long for what we do not have. Such longing is the root cause of acquiring Karma.

By Karma, we normally mean what we might have done in the past. But Karma does not mean merely the past actions. It also covers the present ones. Past Karma lays down destiny. It provides favorable or unfavorable situations depending upon the type of Karma. If we do not feel happy with the given situation or are not satisfied with it, we can surely strive to change it by resorting to present Karma. That is termed as Vartaman Karma. If it is strong enough to overcome the past Karma, we may succeed in changing the given situation. Otherwise, we may fail to get the desired result. In either of these cases, a spiritual aspirant accepts the outcome.

But an observer of Tap needs to adopt a different approach. He should accept the given situation, whether it is favorable or not. He should feel happy with that and should not have any urge to change it. Desire to change arises from dissatisfaction with the

existing condition. We always desire something over and above what we have. Satisfaction with the present condition seems to be beyond us. We happen to feel that what we have is not adequate to make us happy. We therefore desire more, hardly remembering that desires are insatiable. Even if we get what we might be longing for, the mind is going to crave for something more. How long can we afford to endeavor for satisfying what is inherently insatiable?

Therefore, the right way is to feel contented with what we have and not to crave anything else. But since we usually crave more, it would be worth examining our existing condition and asking ourselves whether we even deserve that. If we think dispassionately, we may realize that what we actually have is more than what we deserve. In that case, why should we not accept situations as they arise? Why not give compliments to nature or to Karma for the situations that they have provided? Why not be grateful for that?

Moreover, if we genuinely think that an existing situation is not conducive to feeling happy, we should remember that the said situation is a consequence of our previous Karma. We need not blame anyone else for it. It has come of our own invitation. If we have invited some wrong person, being unaware of his wickedness, we have no right to drive him away. He has come of our own invitation and we should bear his presence. Once we become aware of his wickedness, we can surely take care not to invite him again. The same way, the unhappy situation has arisen of our own Karma and we should bear it patiently. We can, of course, remain cautious of not doing anything by which we may acquire similar Karma once again.

Bearing anything involves some stress, which builds up, and a moment may arise when bearing becomes intolerable. An acute sense of unhappiness then overcomes us and we feel that we can no longer bear it. The observance of external Tap does not become helpful at that stage. Our patience is broken and we may become wild at the situation. If, however, we might have learnt to accept the situation, there is no strain. We can remain peaceful and calm even under adverse circumstances.

Therefore, the best way to feel happy is to accept. That is the highest type of Tap. But acceptance must be wholehearted. There need not be the slightest mental reservation. An ignorant person also might be accepting a given situation, but his acceptance is not wholehearted. He accepts, because he has to do so. Such involuntary acceptance does not give the desired result. Only unreserved acceptance leads to contentment. Feeling contented is the only way to be happy. Moreover, it does not give rise to any longing and therefore does not result in acquisition of new Karma. So, contentment is the way of achieving Samvar.

THE CONCEPT OF TAP FROM A NEW PERSPECTIVE (cont.)

If acceptance is not wholehearted, there is scope for desiring an alternative, there is scope for preference. Such scope is bound to lead to conflict. When I say that I prefer to have sweet dish, my mind automatically develops a distaste or even rejection of other dishes. So I divide the food in two parts, sweet and non-sweet. That is the way of dividing a thing in two categories of liking and disliking. That leads to affection for the former and disaffection for the latter.

Real acceptance denotes no selection, no choice. Happiness and unhappiness are the two sides of the same coin. One may feel happy with one thing, while another may feel unhappy about it. There is nothing, which can be objectively happy. When the feeling of happiness is so subjective, what is there to be chosen about? No welcoming of the so called happy situations and no aversion for the unhappy ones. Simply feel pleased with what is available; no demand, no expectation, no preference. Merely stay pleased. Pleasure is the inherent attribute of soul. Staying with that attribute is religion. Remaining pleased with the existing situation constitutes Tap. That is also true worship. The great ascetic poet Ānandghanaji has therefore said that the fruit of worship lies in the pleasure of mind.

It is, however, noticed that many observers of Tap remain away from pleasure. They generally appear to be gloomy. This is so, because they happen to be undertaking Tap for gaining something that they do not have. They hardly have any concept of acceptance; they endeavor to get something. Thereby they have been trying to run away from the existing situation. That is a negative approach and cannot lead to pleasure. They remain gloomy or Udās..

The scriptures, no doubt, lay down to maintain Udāsinatā, but that does not mean to remain Udās. Most people do not realize the difference between Udās and Udāsinatā. The former denotes the state of sadness or gloominess and that is a negative approach. The latter denotes remaining above all the circumstances. Different circumstances are bound to arise from time to time. We hardly have any control over them. Then why worry about them? We are better to stay above circumstance. That is called Udāsinatā. Staying that way is the positive approach.

Let us take an example of staying above. Suppose a person tumbles down and his leg bone is broken. He undergoes surgery and awaits recovery. Meanwhile, he groans on account of acute pain. He may be given some pain killer and he may feel that the pain has subsided. But as soon as the effect of the medicine is over, he starts feeling the pain again. Instead of that, if he considers himself apart from the leg and starts dispassionately observing the pain, he would lose the sense of feeling pain. Such staying above need not be considered imaginary. It has been experimented and found successful.

Now let us put it with the help of a simile. A river might be flowing towards the sea. On the way it passes through a forest and the shade of the trees falls on the water. The river, however, does not take notice of it and proceeds ahead. Then it may pass through the hills and the water may be heated by the heat emanating from the heated rocks. The river still remains unaffected and continues to flow towards its destination. Similarly our consciousness, Chaitanya as it is called, is not static. It also continues to flow till it reaches the destination, the salvation. Like the river it also passes through different situations on its way. The difference is that the river is not aware of what happens, while Chaitanya knows what happens. But unlike the river, it reacts to such situations favorably or unfavorably. This happens on account of the ignorance about its own true nature. Thereby, it prolongs the period of reaching the destination.

Once, a person becomes aware of his true nature, he tries to restrain reacting to any situation. He cultivates dispassionateness at an ever-increasing level. The lifestyle of a truly religious person thus undergoes radical change. He remains pleased with whatever he gets. To him, everything seems pleasurable. He knows that pleasure arises from within, not from without. He also knows that all situations are temporary and are going to disappear sooner or later. Even situations that one craves for are ephemeral. As such the religious person wholeheartedly accepts the given situation without even thinking of changing it.

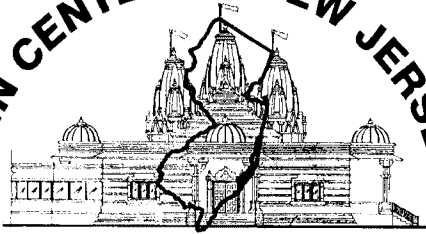
The question may arise, 'Would that not lead to inactivity?' Prima facie, it may seem so; but actually acceptance does not denote inactivity. By activity, we mean exercising the faculties of mind, speech and body. That can be exercised rightly or wrongly. But when we accept the given situation, we do not have any motive to change it. As such, there is no need to exercise those faculties wrongly. Moreover, acceptance of the situations denotes that we also accept that we are parents or children, brothers or sisters and so on. It means that we accept to play the role given to us as a relative, a neighbor, a citizen or a human being. Thus, in the worldly life we are expected to continue the appropriate activities. Even if a person renounces the worldly life, he needs play the monastic role. True acceptance thus precludes inactivity. If there is any scope for inactivity, it would be restricted to the unwholesome areas.

At times the concept of Tap is grossly misunderstood; many people take it as giving pain to the body and mind. Kāyāklesh is admitted as an external Tap. Literally, it means giving pain to the body. But that does not mean giving invitation to pain or misery. That Tap is actually meant for training the body to bear a tough life. The intention is not to be susceptible to breaking down, when we come across the hard times.

(continuing on page 9)

॥ OM SHREE PARSHWANATHAY NAMAH ॥

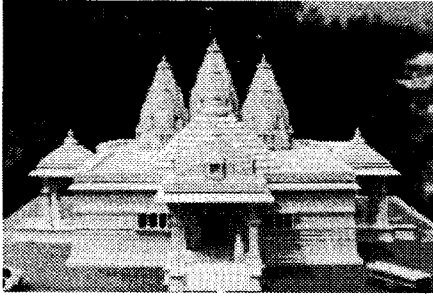
JAIN CENTER OF NEW JERSEY



233 Runnymede Road, Essex Fells,
New Jersey 07021

E-mail: jaincenternj@yahoo.com

Web: www.come.to/jaincenter



**Coming together is a Beginning,
Staying together is Progress,
Working together is Success**

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP JAIN CENTER PROJECT

This temple site is located at 111 Cedar Grove Lane in Franklin Township, Somerset County, New Jersey. This project will facilitate the needs of all the established Jain sects such as Shwetamber, Digamber, Sthanakwasi and Shrimad Rajchandra. Areas will be designated under this project to accommodate everyone's needs.

We call upon you for your enthusiastic support and firm determination to help fund this project. This center will then become a landmark of Jain Religion and Culture in the whole of North America for ages to come.

Bhoomi Pujan & Shilanyas ceremonies are being planned for 2002. Please donate generously.

DONATION SCHEMES

Brick by Brick Program

Under this program, everyone can support the building of the Jain Temple by donating a brick. Brick donors will be recognized on brick donation listing. Denominations of brick purchases are as follows:

Platinum Brick \$751 Gold Brick \$501 Silver Brick \$251

Founders Recognition Program

Platinum Plaque \$11,111 & over • Gold Plaque \$5001 & over • Silver Plaque \$1001 & over

Room Naming - Minimum Donation

Assembly Hall \$1,000,000 • Dinning Hall \$500,000 • Four Class Rooms - each \$100,000
Shrimad Rajchandra Hall \$251,000 • Library \$151,000 • Audio Visual Room \$101,000
Digamber Hall \$151,000 • Kitchen \$101,000 • Caretaker's House \$101,000 • Sthanakvasi Hall \$51,000

*All we need now is an awakening for ourselves and for
the sake of future generations to come.*

It is a task, which cannot be fulfilled by a few individuals or groups.

Pledge Form

I pledge my support for the Jain Center of New Jersey's Franklin Township Project

Name: _____ Spouse's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Donor of \$1,000 and above will be recognized on a special founder's plaque.

I will donate \$ _____ for this project. My check is enclosed herewith. *All Donations are tax deductible.*

Please make check payable to **Jain Center of New Jersey – Building fund** and mail to
Jain Center of New Jersey C/o Virendra Shah, 25 Gary Court, Dayton, NJ 08810, Phone: 732-329-3236

JAIN MODEL OF LEARNING PROCESS

By Anop R. Vora, Rochester, NY

Jainism has stated repeatedly that knowledge is the key to spiritual growth because it has the most impact on our thought pattern, outlook and behavior. How do we acquire such knowledge? How can we reinforce it? How can we digest and internalize? Jain sages have outlined a 5 step process in response to these questions:

1. Reading scriptural texts (Vaanchana)
2. Questioning (Prichchhana)
3. Repetition (Parivartana)
4. Pondering over (Anupreksha)
5. Religious Teaching (Dharma Katha)

This is a simple yet very powerful learning model. It is the most important penance called "Study of Scriptures (Swaadhyaya)". Unfortunately, most of us fail miserably in using it effectively. Let us understand it, examine the reasons for our failure and discuss the corrective actions:

Reading (Vaachana):

Most of us flunk right at the first step. How many of us take the time to study religious scriptures and articles on a **daily basis**? Very few. Most of us spend our adult lives in dealing with the worldly affairs and allocating very little time for spiritual reading. Many of us put it off until retirement. Even in retirement, we may not develop interest in reading unless we have cultivated the habit early on. Net result: In all probability, most of us will never realize, during our life time, the value of acres of diamonds treasured in the religious scriptures.

Irrespective of our age, we need to start spending at least 30 minutes every day reading something spiritual with full understanding. This means we need to read the material in the language with which we feel most comfortable. Once we develop this habit, we will be surprised at our progress. Nothing can beat daily effort on any issue no matter how small it is.

Questioning (Prichchhana)

Once we start reading any religious material with our heart in it, we will start asking questions. The mere process of asking questions suggests interest and curiosity on the part of the reader. We need to clear up our doubts through questions before we can expect our mind to accept the material.

Repetition (Parivartana):

Most Asian religions including the Jain religion have realized the importance of repetition in acquiring knowledge. Since we tend to forget fast, the more we review learning material, the more we will retain.

Pondering over (Anupreksha):

This is probably the most critical step in learning. The equivalent words in English are "Reflect", "Ponder", "Contemplate", "Digest", "Absorb" or "Crystallize" etc. Once we read any spiritual material, we need to think and rethink before it can become a part of our inner being. Most of us have a tendency to jump from one book to another, from one article to the next without letting our minds absorb and internalize what was read. Until we internalize, we should not expect our thoughts and thus behavior to alter. ANUPREKSHA plays a crucial role not only in the learning process but also in the entire spiritual growth. **Nothing worthwhile can be achieved without this important step.**

Religious Teaching (Dharma Katha):

Teaching is the best way of learning! If we are asked to teach, we have to learn the material first ourselves before confronting the student body. It appears this step is also designed to reinforce the learning process.

The steps described are simple yet very few of us apply them completely. That is probably the reason why most of us don't grow much internally as we go through the journey of life. Even when we find the time to read religious material, we fail to recognize that that is only the first step in learning. Unless we follow through and use all steps, we will not change much and find ourselves no better off, even after many years of life experience. Now that we are aware of the important steps of learning and our pitfalls, shouldn't we employ a different strategy to accelerate our spiritual growth?

Thought of the year

We know that life is temporary. We know that life is uncertain. We know that nothing accompanies us to the other worlds except our good deeds and our character. But somehow most of us, most of the time, forget these simple facts of life and live our lives as if we are going to continue here forever.

(continuing from Page 17)

(continuing from Page 17) Of them all, the purna-kalasha is the most familiar to people, for it is seen on the entrances of homes, invitation cards for ceremonies such as laying the foundation stone of a building, or even a wedding.

Wherever, they occur and whatever their form, the ashtamangala singly or collectively are believed to increase auspiciousness and avert calamity.

Ashtamangala-The Eight Auspicious symbols

by Dr. Saryu Doshi, Bombay, India

Belief in auspicious objects has existed in many cultures from ancient times. This belief is an integral part of the ethos in India and is encountered in all the religions : Hinduism, Jainism and Buddhism.

The Sanskrit term mangala denotes the auspicious character of an object. The definition of the word mangala is wide ranging : it can mean free of impurities, or sacred and holy, or the harbinger of good fortune, or capable of conferring comfort and happiness. In addition to these qualities, implicit in the term mangala, is that which can overcome all obstacles. In that capacity, the word indicates that it wards off all malevolent forces.

The word mangala, thus, has a dual meaning. It possesses the qualities of sacredness and purity as also the power of removing hindrances and thereby providing protection.

A number of objects have been considered auspicious in India. The generally accepted list of one hundred and eight includes symbols such as the svastika, purna-kalasha (full vase), darpana (mirror) and kanya (maiden). Many of these objects and symbols can be traced to fertility rites and are derived from cults connected with animistic worship. Some represent the sublimation of the qualities possessed by the form that the objects appear to approximate, as for example, the full vase which symbolises a pregnant woman, and by implication, a womb that can sustain life.

It is not surprising to find that the same sign, for example the svastika, has different meanings in different cultures. But, interestingly, within a culture, its symbolism often differs from one religious group to another, as each interprets it to suit its own requirements. For instance, the svastika has been suggested as denoting the sun because as soon as the sun rises, the four directions become visible. Vaishnavite Hindus recognise in the svastika the wheel of Vishnu with two spokes and a rim, while the Jains equate it with the representation of the four classes of beings that a soul can be born into - celestial, human, plant or animal, and infernal. The sign of the svastika is also reverence. This meaning continues unchanged in postures of Indian dance. Actually, the symbol can be traced to the Indus Valley seals made more than 5000 years ago and is probably connected with snake worship. For any primitive cultures equate the symbol of embracing serpents (one lying on the other) with the creation of the cosmos.

Indian epics and stories often mention auspicious objects. The Mahabharata describes Arjuna paying obeisance to various auspicious objects including maidens before departing for the big battle. Other references state that kings and chieftains wore necklaces strung with pendants representing auspicious objects when

going on a hunting expedition or to fight a war. The necklace acted as a charm, and shielded the wearer from danger.

It became customary to use eight of the one hundred and eight auspicious objects during rituals. The set of eight auspicious objects, collectively called the ashtamangala are represented singly or in a group at various social and religious occasions. Though the list of eight objects is codified among all religious groups, variations occur, as one is replaced by some other from the long list of universally recognised auspicious objects.

The concept of a set of eight auspicious objects has prevailed among the Jains from the early centuries of the Christian Era. Both the Shvetambara and Digambara sects recognise them, though each sect has its own version of the ashtamangala.

According to the Shvetambara sect of Jains the following objects constitute the ashtamangala.

1. purna-kalasha (full vase)
2. darpana (mirror)
3. bhadrāsana (throne)
4. vardhamanaka (powder flask)
5. shrivatsa (a rhomboid mark)
6. svastika (four armed cross)
7. nandyavarta (nine pointed diagram)
8. mina-yugala (pair of fish)

For the Digambara sect of Jains, the ashtamangala are as follows:

1. bhringara (vessel)
2. tala (fan)
3. purna-kalasha (full vase)
4. dhyaja (banner)
5. supratishtha (seat)
6. chhatra (parasol)
7. darpana (mirror)
8. chamara (fly whisk)

These eight auspicious symbols are worshipped during religious ceremonies. They are encountered everywhere - in painted or sculpted panels, on temple walls, as painting in illustrated manuscripts or on manuscripts covers (potlis), in carvings on objects in temples such as platters, donations boxes, and low stools (baroths) used for placing offerings to deities, as well as embroidered on patos (cover of the handle of a monk's broom). In Digambara Jain temples of southern India, individually fashioned metal images of the ashtamangala are placed in front of the Tirthankara in the sanctum-sanctorum of the temple.

(continued on Page 16)

REGIONAL NEWS....

SOUTH WEST

Jadavji Kenia, Regional Editor

NORTH TEXAS (DALLAS AREA)

The Mahavir Jayanti celebration began with the Snatra Pooja. The younger group presented a skit about Megh Kumar's previous life as an elephant. Children had dressed up as the forest animals such as monkeys, rabbits, cheetah, antelope, jaguar, tiger, etc. and of course, two together as an elephant. During the forest fire, a rabbit got under the elephants foot when elephant lifted his leg for an itch. He then did not put his foot down for over 2 days, thereby saving that rabbit. As a result of such non-violence, he became Prince Megh Kumar in the next life and later took Diksha (and headed for Moksha in the next life). The two older groups presented a joint program of questions and answers about Jainism and Bhagwan Mahavir. Audience participation was the main theme as their names were drawn at random. It was a great learning experience for many adults. The program continued with the Manglik, Aartis, Shanti Kalash, Samuh Chaitya Vandan and a delicious lunch. Jain population in this area has grown a lot and a program like this is attended by 250-300 people.

Swadhyay frequency has increased to twice in Hindi and twice in Gujarati weekly. JSNT contact is our current president Dr. Minaxi Rathod at 903-868-1174, email: minaxi1@yahoo.com.

PHOENIX, AZ

In addition to weekly pathshala for children and adults, the Jain Center of Greater Phoenix had a lot of activities since January of 2002. Some of these activities were Camp in February, Picnic in March and Mahavir Jayanti Celebration in April.

Over 250 members participated in the Mahavir Jayanti Celebration. Key activities included: Play by pathshala children - Upadan vs. Nimit, Wheel of Karma game, Prayers by Band, Garbo and Dinner.

The center is getting ready to host Jain scholars over next 2-3 months. For details on the center's activities, visit http://members.tripod.com/jain_phoenix/ Contact for Jain Center of Greater Phoenix - E-mail address: Jain_phoenix@hotmail.com or Mehul Rajparia at (602) 795-4987 email â€” Mehul.Rajparia@sybase.com.

TULSA, OK

Newly elected committee and trustees of the Tulsa Jain Sangh are making a great headway and positive progress towards our Derashar and Hall project. We will start within six to eight weeks to complete our Derashar, followed by the balance of the project. We need support from our entire Jain community in the USA.

We celebrated 2600th birthday of Lord Mahavir on April 20th by Snatra Puja and meaning of Ahimsa by our Trustee Surendra Doshi. We had "Sangh Lunch". Our valued members from Edmond and Norman, OK joined us to celebrate this auspicious day. Our young pathshala students started reciting 26 Malas during the month of April. They were inspired by our Jain Pathshala Teacher. Adults joined in also and the final total ended up with 2600 Malas in celebration of 2600th Mahvir Jayanti.

We are very proud to congratulate our young member Mr. Ronak Shah (son of our past president Mr. Mukesh Shah) who has been elected as Co-Chairman of YJA and 2002 Convention.

Please visit our website at www.tulsajainsangh.org. We will provide an update of our activities and progress on our Derashar and Hall project. We need your support. Please contact Kanti Shah, presi-

dent at (918) 369-3163 or by email at KANARU@aol.com.

SOUTH EAST

Surendra Shah, Regional Editor

ATLANTA, GA

For the first time in Atlanta, Babubhai Kadiwala and his group performed Siddha chakra puja on April 13, 2002. About 250 people took the opportunity of the occasion. Harshadbhai and Ramilaben Gandhi family sponsored the puja and dinner.

The Mahavir Jayanti was celebrated on April 27 and April 28, 2002 at the center. The program started on April 27, with Navanu Prakari Puja conducted by Mr. Virendra Shah from New Jersey. Then it was followed by cultural program. The celebration continued next day with Snatra Puja and Varghodo (Procession).

NORTHEAST

Dinesh Chheda, Regional Editor

ESSEX FELLS, NJ

Aayambil Oli was celebrated with lot of enthusiasm. More than 100 people participated in Samuh Aayambil at our Dehrasar. Mahavir Jayanti was celebrated with Snatra Puja at our Dehrasar followed by a cultural program. This year more than 170 Pathshala students performed on stage depicting Jain culture. Mr. Upendra Chivukula, the first Indian American to be New Jersey State assemblyman, was the chief guest.

We were fortunate to welcome the members of Jain Sanghs from West Virginia, Boston, and Cherry Hill at our Dehrasar.

REGIONAL NEWS....

Dr. Kumarpalbhair Desai from Ahmedabad, India gave two lectures. Dr. Poddar gave a lecture on Vastushastra detailing what it is and how people can benefit from using it.

Pathshala classes had a tremendous year with about 200 students are learning Jain religion. Regular monthly Samuh Samayik and bi-weekly Swadhaya classes were well attended. Dedicated members keep the Dehrasar open on every Sunday in the afternoon. If you are visiting New Jersey / New York City area and would like to visit or attend a program, please call Shri Viren Shah at 732 - 329 - 3236

WASHINGTON, DC

Mahavir Jayanti was celebrated on Saturday, April 20, 2002 in a school auditorium with a stage program presented by 71 children. It consisted of prayer songs, prayer dances, Jain stutis, skits, and two dramas. The highlight of the program was the drama "Megh Kumar" performed with excellent costumes and background scenes. All the participants were presented with a trophy. The stage program was followed by Swami Vatsalya Bhojan. About 500 people attended the program.

Samuha Ayambil program was held on Sunday, April 21. Ayambil was performed by about 20 persons. Members of the Jain Sangh of Richmond, Virginia visited the Jain center on March 23. The program consisted of Swami Vatsalya Bhojan followed by a Bhavana program. A funfair will be held at the Jain Center on June 23. Program will consist of food bazaar, and medical tests. For Paryushan this year, Achara Shree Mahapragyaji has kindly accepted our invitation to send Samani Shree Mangal Pragyaji to grace the celebration.

WEST

Chandrakant Parekh, Regional Editor

LOS ANGELES, CA

Jain Center of Southern California (JCSC) achieved a major milestone for its Jain Bhavan Expansion Project, when Bhoomi Pujan was done in the presence of several distinguished guests including Mayor Patsy Marshall, Council Members, and Planning Commission Members of the City of Buena Park. Shri Chandrakant Mehta of New Jersey directed the ceremonies. Phase I construction will begin soon after the final negotiations have been completed with the successful contractor.

Over 500 people attended the Mahavir Janma Kalyanak program celebrated on April 28. The celebrations included a cultural program presented by the Pathshala students and a lecture on *Kalpa Sutra* by Professor Padmanabh Jaini.

The 12th Annual Health Fair, co-sponsored by JCSC and the Jain Social Group of Los Angeles was organized on April 7. It was gratifying to note that significant number of non-Jains and non-Indians took advantage of the event to seek consultation from health professionals representing over twenty different disciplines. A photo art exhibition entitled "Jain Pilgrimage - A Picturesque Experience" was presented at the Jain Bhavan on April 20-21 by Mahendra Visaria, a well-known photographer from India, and included 120 photos of various Jain Temples throughout India.

Jain Singles Meet And Network: Jain Center of Southern California organized the Jain Forum For Friendship, an event designed to bring Jain singles together at a three-day "matchmaking" event in May 17-19. With the goal of helping single Jains to meet that "someone special", 150 registered participants, ranging in age 21 to 33 years,

from United States, Canada and England were booked at the Renaissance Hotel, Long Beach. A variety of activities were planned to facilitate maximum interaction and networking, including "Gone in 60 seconds" - an interactive speed dating session, a dinner under the stars, a midnight cruise, a picnic on the beach, an early morning Yoga class, and a team-building breakout session. During the "Fish Bowl", the participants were divided into a male and female circular panel to discuss the preferred qualities. Mutual trust, honesty, open communication, and attractiveness were identified as the desired attributes. "Something like this was very much needed, and it was wonderfully organized," noted a participant from Toronto, Canada. Additional details of the event and the participants are available at the www.jain21.com website.

Jain Forum For Friendship has scheduled a gathering to unite Jain singles, 21 years and older, at the Jain Bhavan on May 17-19. JAINA Education Committee has scheduled the Second Jain Pathshala Teachers Conference on *Jain Education For Digital Generation* at the Jain Bhavan on May 25-27. Registration information for these two events are available on websites www.jain21.com and www.jaincenter.net respectively.

Information about regular activities and forthcoming programs are posted on JCSC's website at www.jaincenter.net. A copy of the recent newsletter can also be downloaded from this website. For additional information, please contact Nitinbhai Shah, JCSC President, at 714/506-6699 or nitin.shah@med.va.gov.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Jain Center of Northern California (JCNC) celebrated the 2601th Mahavir Janma Kalyanak on April 27 with a wonderful 2-hour cultural program entitled "Jai

REGIONAL NEWS....

Mahavir Bolo" presented by the Pathshala students; lectures by Samanijis Charitrapragyaji and Shardaprananj and bhakti and pujas conducted in all the major Jain traditions. Nearly 1,200 people participated in the celebrations.

Henry Manayan, Mayor of Milpitas, was the Chief Guest of Honor who performed the official opening of a Jain art exhibition entitled "Jain Pilgrimage – A Picturesque Experience" at the Jain Bhawan on April 27. The art exhibition was presented by Mahendra Visaria.

Dr. Pravin Shah, a visiting scholar, conducted the Shrimad Rajchandra Bhakti Swadhyay on April 12-14. A town hall meeting and a Volunteer Recognition Program are scheduled on May 18.

Activities and events in all the major Jain traditions are being held at the Jain Bhawan on a regular basis. Information about forthcoming programs and regular activities are posted on JCNC's website at www.jcnc.org. A copy of the recent newsletter can also be downloaded from this website. For additional information, please contact Jay Itchhaporia, JCNC President, at 408/263-8739 or e-mail: Itchhaporia@yahoo.com.

SACRAMENTO, CA

The Jain Center of Greater Sacramento (JCGS) regularly conducts monthly puja on the second Sunday of each month. Children of all ages are encouraged to participate. An annual 3-day retreat is planned for August 16-18, and will be directed by a Samaniji from the Ladnau Center. JCGS organizes a number of activities, religious celebrations, and lectures by visiting dignitaries. For additional information, please contact Mohini Jain, JCGS President, at 530/756-4655 or e-mail: mohini_jain@msn.com.

SAN DIEGO, CA

Jain Society of San Diego (JSSD) celebrated Mahavir Jayanti on April 21 with stavans by Paresch Shah and a cultural program presented by Jainshala students which included ashta prakari puja, dances, a play about Chandanbala and a skit on four gatis. About 45 people participated in a bus yatra during March to various temples in the Los Angeles area including the Jain Bhavan, Self Realization Fellowship Temple, the Buddhist Temple and the Swami Narayan Temple.

Regular activities include - a monthly Jainshala for children, adult classes, swadhyay, a weekly pooja and feeding the homeless. For additional information, please contact Kokilaben Doshi at 858/679-7645 or at kdoshi@sandiego.edu.

SEATTLE, WA

Nearly 100 people participated in the Mahavir Jayanti program, which was celebrated on April 28. Sangeeta Jain conducted the Snatra Puja. 18 students are enrolled in the Jain Pathshala, which meets on the first Saturday of every month. The classes are divided into two levels. Level 1 students learn about the basics of the Jain religion through classroom instructions, skits, stories and poems. Level 2 students follow a more rigorous curriculum, and develop their own skits, stories and poems about Mahavir, which they like to perform.

Members of the Jain community in Seattle area meet on a monthly basis. Jain Pathshala is held on the 1st Saturday of the month and is conducted by Aleena. For additional details, please contact Aleena at 206/236-0170. Jain community members get together every month. For additional information about Jain programs in Seattle area, please contact Mukesh Jain at 425/706-9697 or email: mukeshj@microsoft.com.

CANADA

Dr. Mahendra Mehta, Regional Editor

TORONTO: ON

Mahavir Jayanti was celebrated at Jain Centre this evening of 25th April with some 100+ people.

There were stavans, raas, arti, mangaldivo and a novel idea brought in from India by Ashok Shah. Instead of ghee boli in dollars, he suggested we have ghee boli in number of Samayik to be performed. It started at 11 and reached up to 601. The total for the evening was 1500. Three families who took the bid were advised that they have to arrange group Samayik in the whole year so that they can reach their announced target.

Shri Attmasiddhi Shastra Puja:

Ramilaben & Talakchandbhai Doshi organized, *Shri Attmasiddhi Shastra Puja*,

The puja started with *Manglacharan* (salutation) and then *Attmasiddhi* was chanted with different rituals of the ceremony. Then the *Ashtaprakari* (eight-step) puja and *Chaityavandan* (prayer) was performed. This pooja was a combination of Attmasiddhi and traditional Snatra Pooja. A novel idea.

Akhand Namokar Mahamantra Jaap, continuous 24-hour chanting took place at the nearby Sri Jain Mandir on the occasion of Mahavir Jayanti. The Jaap started on Saturday 23 March 2002 at 11:00 a.m. and ended on Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Roop Lal Lecture

Continuing the fine tradition of the Roop Lal Jain Lecture Series, Dr. Christopher Key Chapple presented an exciting and informative lecture March 7th at the University of Toronto entitled "Jainism, Bioethics, and the End of Life." Dr. Chapple, a Professor of Theological Studies and Director of Asian and Pacific Studies at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles,

REGIONAL NEWS....

opened his lecture with a fascinating historical overview of the sacred ritual vow of *sallekhana* (the Jaina ritual of fasting to death). Situating the religious meaning of the ritual within its earliest cultural contexts, he then continued with an elucidation of the significance underlying several contemporary examples of the ritual. This was followed by a detailed examination of the questions and concerns raised in contemporary medical bioethics over such issues as religious fasting to death and both passive and active euthanasia.

This year's Roop Lal Jain Lecture, which was first established in 1990 as a series of talks honoring the memory and contributions of Roop Lal Jain to the academic study of the Jaina tradition, was also presented in London and Windsor, Ontario (Canada). The first nine lectures of the series have been published in a text edited by Dr. Joseph T. O'Connell, *Jain Doctrine and Practice: Academic Perspectives*, published by the Centre for South Asian Studies at the University of Toronto. (Mikal Radford)

2002-2004 Elections:

The elections for 2002-2004 committee were held on April 28th. The new committee consists of: Arhant Jain (President), Jashwant Shah (Vice President), Pratik Shah (General Secretary), Harish Kothari (Treasurer). And the Executive Committee consists of Pritam Mehta, Samir Shah, Bhavin Vakharia, Shailesh Shah, Minesh Shah, Rohit Shah, Santosh Jain (Ladies, Representative) and Lily Jain (Youth Representative). Everyone wished the new executive successful and fruitful term of office.

EDMONTON, ALBERTA:

Mahavir Jayanti was celebrated in Edmonton at the temple with great dedication on April 28 in presence of about 350 people. It was sponsored by Jitendra Shah's mother and her families.

MIDWEST

Manubhai Doshi, Regional Editor

CHICAGO, IL

Mahavir Senior Center organized a pilgrimage to Cincinnati on April 13th. 52 people participated. They were enthusiastically received by Cincinnati Center. Most of the pilgrims took the advantage of performing Poojas. Encouraged by that experience the Senior Center has been thinking to organize a pilgrimage to Siddhachalam sometime during the late summer or early fall.

On the occasion of Chaitri Oli arrangements were made by Renu Mehta at the Jain Center for observing Ayambil on April 20, 21 and 27. About 200 people in all took advantage of that facility.

An exhibition of Bhaktamar Stotra with stanza-wise Yantra, Tantra and appropriate colors prepared by Sadhak Shivanand Saraswati together with the English version of the Stotra by Makarand Dave was organized by Jyotsna Shah at the Jain Center on 27th and 28th April. These have also been presented in the book entitled Bhaktamar issued by Divine Darshan. The book costs \$ 25 and can be obtained by calling Jyotsna on (847) 755 1278 or e-mailing to her at museumgallery@yahoo.com.

Lord Mahavir Jayanti was celebrated by the Jain Society on April 28. The Declamation contest was the high light of the program. 31 persons participated therein. They were divided in three age groups of 10 to 13, 14 to 18 and age 19 onwards. The subject assigned to the first group was 'What is religion? How do I practice it?' The second and third groups had the common subject of 'Spirituality and Healing'. Sonia Vasanwala, Jarna Shah and Archana Shah were the first three comers in the first group; Arun Singhavi, Madhur Paharia and Shibani Shah in the second group; and

Savitaben Doshi, Gita Shah and Jyotindra Doshi in the third one. Three prizes of \$ 101, 75 and 51 were given to each group.

Dr. N. P. Jain, the former Indian ambassador to UNO, gave a talk on that occasion. The opportunity was also taken to honor Dr. Dipak Jain for becoming the Dean of Business Management school of the Northwestern University in Evanston IL. There was Swamivatsalya after the contest and that was followed by the cultural program.

DETROIT

Jayaben Koradia, a long time member of the Detroit Metropolitan Society renounced the worldly life and became a nun at Palitana on February 17. She is now known as Sadhvi Sanyamratnashri.

The Society's another Pratishtha Moahotsav has been scheduled from August 10 to 19 this year.

ST. LOUIS

The election of the members of the Executive Committee for 2002 was held and the following persons were elected.

President: Kalpana Shah, Vice President: Mamta Shah, Secretary: Hemal Sanghavi, Treasurer: Jagruti Shah, VP Education: Amit Vora, VP Youth: Dulari Shah, VP Library: Bharat Shah, VP Temple Activities: Satish Nayak, V.P. Temple Projects: Dilip Sheth. The former President Shirish Ghelani was nominated as an ex-officio member of the Committee.

Mahavir Jayanti was celebrated from 26th to 28th April in the presence of Rajanibhai Shah, who gave talks on different subjects.

TEERTH DARSHAN A Three-Volume Encyclopedia of Jain Places of Pilgrimage

Dilip V. Shah, Philadelphia, PA

Gurudev Shri Chitrabhanuji inaugurated a three-volume set of books titled TEERTH DARSHAN at the Mahavir Jayanti Celebration of Jain Center of America in Queens, New York. The Jain Prathna Mandir Trust of Chennai has produced this beautifully photographed large-sized encyclopedia of places of pilgrimage to commemorate the 2600th Birth Anniversary of Bhagwan Mahavir. It is the International Edition in English and a revised version of their two-volume set published in Hindi and Gujarati in 1981, which was out of print and sought after by devotees. The new set is



a result of 180 days of continuous traveling to 265 places of pilgrimage: photographing, collecting history and other useful details. Thereafter, eight long years of research has resulted in this unique collection with 750 pages, 700 detailed color photographs on best quality art paper, durable binding and velvet burgundy pouch for each of the three books. A very moving message by the Late Acharya Shri Kalapurnasurishvarji Maharaj explains the significance of this work. He has termed these three books a useful tool for Bhav Yatra and has instructed us on the reverence and care with which these books should be handled.

The 265 ancient pilgrim centers comprise of

- (1) Those having history of 700 years
- (2) Those which are kalyanak places of all Tirthankars
- (3) Those which are world famous for art and architecture
- (4) Those with powerful deities attracting thousands of pilgrims,
- (5) Those which come under Panch Teerthi of any place.

For each pilgrim center there are original color photos of the chief and important deities, the exterior view of the temple, and the name of the principal deity, location, color, height and posture of the idol (Shvetambar or Digambar). There is also the history of

the teerth, the route, location and map for reaching the place, along with the address of the managing body of the Teerth. The Teerths are arranged by states and regions. Index in the front of each volume identifies each temple as an ancient place: Atishaya Kshetra, Kalyanak Center, Panchateerthi Center or Artistic Center. Colorful maps of the states with markings of temples are an eye-pleasing realization of glory and prevalence of Jainism in ancient times. As the name of the three-volume set suggests - Teerth Darshan - the information is useful for performing daily Darshan, reviewing and learning our rich history, and planning a successful pilgrimage to these teerths.

One of the volumes describes a miracle - the appearance of a snake (Adistyayak Dev) at Parswanath Temple in Lodrawar (Bihar) at the precise time they were photographing the Temple. The publisher has considered this as blessings for this publication .

“It is a unique and complete encyclopedic reference work of Jain Teerths that has ever been published. He encouraged each Jain family to have the blessings of this three-volume set in their home. This is also a valuable tool to introduce our children to their rich heritage.”

The three-volume set is offered at \$100.00, including the postage, and is available from the JAINA Bookstore. It is the wisest investment you can make. These books are printed in limited quantities and once out of print, they rarely are made available again. Proceeds from the sale of the book will benefit Jain Prathna Mandir Trust in support of Guru Shree Shantivijai Jain Vidyalay and Jain College for Women in Chennai. These two colleges on the campus of Mahavir Jain Kalyanak Sangh are run for the general public but with the object of spreading Jin Bhakti, Jin Vani and Jin Darshan.

Picture: From left: Mr. Hemant Shah (President of Jain Center of America), Mr. Chandrakant Mehta, Mr. Hon. John C. Liu (NY City Council), Dr. Dilip Mukhatiyar and Shree Gurudev Chitrabhanuji

JAINA FINANCIAL STATEMENT**JAINA BOOK STORE.....**

Federation of Jain Associations In North America
Financial Summary for Calendar Year 2001
(Cash Basis)

It gives us immense pleasure in welcoming you to Jaina Book Store. The following Books are now available by mail.

ASSETS

Cash	\$482,826	
Investment in Corporate Bonds	\$130,000	
Total Assets		<u><u>\$612,826</u></u>

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Loan Payable	\$29,101	
Net Assets	\$583,725	
Total Liabilities and Net Assets		<u><u>\$612,826</u></u>

REVENUE

Support:

Contributions	\$912,602
Membership dues	5,802
Total Support	<u>\$918,404</u>

Revenue:

Convention registration	\$480,109
Advertisements	79,295
Interest	23,356
Miscellaneous income 13,829	
Total Revenue	\$596,589

Total Support and Revenue \$ 1,514,993

EXPENSES

Program Services:

Convention expenses \$803,521	
Grants and allocations	364,133
Books and publications	120,180
Pilgrimage expenses	24,212
Total Program Services	\$1,312,046

Support Services:

General and administrative	\$32,034
Total Support Services	<u>\$32,034</u>

Total Expenses \$ 1,344,080

Change in Net Assets \$ 170,913

Net Assets, Beginning Of Year \$ 412,812

Net Assets, End Of Year \$ 583,725

Respectfully Submitted by

Girish Shah, Treasurer

(Audited Financial Statement is available from the Treasurer)

Title**US\$**

1. Bhaktamara Stotra (G,H,E) + CD & VCD	\$20
2. Tirthankara Bhagawan Mahavira (G,H,E) +CD	\$20
3. Tirthankara Bhagawan Mahavira (G,H,E) +VCD	\$20
6. Jain Symbols (Pramoda Chitrabhanu) {E}	\$ 5
7. Set of Five books by Pandit Dhirajlal D. Metha on	
1) Karma Philosophy	
2) KatmaVipaka	
3) KarmaStava	
4) BandhaSwamitvanama	
5) Shadshiti	
Paribhashik Shabdakosh (all in G}	\$20
8. Set of Two books by Pandit Dhirajlal D. Metha	
1) Navsmarana	
2) Aath	
Dhrasthini Sajhai {all in G}	\$10
9. Set of Two books by Mr. Herman Kuhn on Tattvartha Sutra	
1) The Key of The Center of The Universe	
2) Karma - The Mechanism (both in E}	\$30
10. Jain Shaasan-na Chamaktaa Sitaraa	
108 Jain Stories (V. V. Shah) {G}	\$5
11. Jin Shaasan-Ka Chamakte Hire	
108 Jain Stories (V. V. Shah) {H}	\$5
12. TEERTH DARSHAN:	
A Three volume Encyclopedia of Jain Places of Pilgrimage	
(750 pages, 700 detailed color photographs)	\$100
13. JAIN TEMPLES: In India and around the World	
(184 pages Large size)	\$60

Languages: H= Hindi, G =Gujarati, E=English:

Minimum Order \$10, No cash please. All Price includes S&H

Please make Check Payable to **JAINA BOOK STORE**

ROHIT DOSHI, 505 AFRICAN ROAD, VESTAL, NY 13850

email: Rohit Doshi <doshi505@yahoo.com>

Please ship requested books to:

Name _____

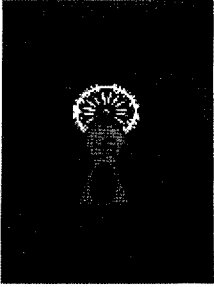
Address _____

City State Zip _____

Phone _____ email _____

SAMAN SUTTAM IN ITALIAN LANGUAGE

SAMAN SUTTAM was compiled at the request of Acharya Vinoba Bhave. It contains 756 verses representing the sum and substance of Jain Scriptures of Digamber as well as Shwetamber traditions. It was published on the occasion of the 2500th Nirvana anniversary of Bhagwan Mahavir, on April 24, 1975. Subsequently, editions of SAMAN SUTTAM containing English, Gujarati and Hindi translation of the verses was published. Complete text of SAMAN SUTTAM has also been posted on www.jainworld.com



In May 2001 the translation of English text of SAMAN SUTTAM in Italian language was published by Ms. Claudia Pastorino of Genova, Italy. She has posted the cover page of SAMAN SUTTAM of the Italian edition and Precepts on Non-Violence under JAINISMO on her website www.claudiapastorino.it. It is indeed wonderful news that her work on the Sacred Jain Text was published during celebration of the 2600th Janma Kalyanak of Bhagwan Mahavir. Ms. Claudia Pastorino spent more than a year in translation of this text. Ms. Claudia Pastorino lives in Genoa, Italy where she was born. She is a highly gifted Italian singer, a talented composer and a writer. Since 1983, she has been an activist of the animal rights and welfare, and she has been promoting vegetarianism and vegan way of life. During the last few years, she has dedicated herself in learning the doctrine of Jainism. Even though, she is not a Jain by birth, she is a true Jain by her heart (interests, thoughts and actions).

She posted a message on internet indicating her desire to learn about Jainism, Dr. P. Gada and his friends sent her copies of SAMAN SUTTAM and other books as a gift. They never dreamed that, one-day, she would carry out such noble work. Recently, Dr. Gada visited her in Italy. Ms. Claudia wants to share basic teachings of Jainism with people of Italy by starting a Jain Study Center in Italy. She is working on translation of "Introduction To Jainism" and Jain Stories For Children for publication.

Italian translation of English text of Saman Suttam was published by Mondadori Publishers in Milan, Italy. The book is available in Italy from major book stores. ISBN : 88-04-49195-7.

The book was published under OUMINI E. RELIGIONI series.

MEANING AND ANALYSIS OF SAMVATSARI PRATIKRAMAN

Most members of our community will again go through the Pratikraman ritual this year. This is a great tradition we should be proud of and is indeed very positive. I do not know of any other religion where the procedure for repentance and atonement is so nicely structured. The problem we have is that a vast majority of our community goes through this ritual without understanding a single word of it since the most sutras are written in Prakrit and Sankrit.

We are a very highly educated and intelligent community. We need to develop a better appreciation of the ritual and get more mileage out of it. Any ritual we perform must touch our heart and impact our innermost sentiments and feelings. This is a prerequisite for a lasting change in our behavior.

I have developed a 46 slide power point presentation on this issue. It is a humble attempt to increase one's understanding and awareness of the most important ritual in our religion. It is now available on the JAINNET group on the YAHOO website. You can access it by clicking

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/JainNet/files>

The most effective way to benefit from this presentation is to have a local teacher arrange a meeting and discuss it, preferably few days before the Samvatsari Pratikraman is performed. If you have any questions or suggestions for improvement, please call Anop R. Vora, Rochester, NY at 585-473-9290 or e mail your message to vora5000@yahoo.com.

(Continued from Page 27)

AF367: Jain Gujarati parents invite correspondence with biodata / photo from well educated professional boys for their beautiful, affectionate, professional, vegetarian, US born daughter, 24 years old, 5'4". Email: benu444@yahoo.com Phone: 312/802-0067.

AF368: Gujarati Jain uncle invites proposals from cultured, educated boys, for pretty, attractive, slim, talented, vegetarian niece, born July 74, 5'3", 102 lb, Bcom, well employed in Bombay and willing to settle in USA. Call: 434/237-3357. Email: chan_shah@hotmail.com

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, 304 Tall Oak Trail
Tarpon Springs, FL 34688-7711 Phone: 727-934-6141 / 3255
hasmukh33@yahoo.com**

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. _____

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: _____

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.

MIS REGISTRATION FORM - PAGE 2

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): _____

Congratulations!

Female: 122, Male: 111 (Married / Engaged)

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. 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.

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.

MIS INFORMATION: THIS IS HOW IT WORKS

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 must follow these instructions care-fully:

1. Fill out the attached Registration Form Page 1 and Page 2. The registrant must fill out this form. *Do not leave anything blank.*
2. Mail the the completed form + a check in the amount of \$25 payable to Hasmukh M. Shah. Leave the Memo or For column blank.
3. a recent, full-length photo of yourself with your name printed on the back.
4. 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 will not be able to process the ad for publication.

Responding to an Ad (only if contact info isn't available).

If the phone number or address is not given in the ad, then you must contact the candidate through MIS. 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. 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.

MATRIMONIALS - MALE

FOR MIS ADS PLEASE CONTACT:

Hasmukh M. Shah, 304 Tall Oak Trail
Tarpon Springs, FL 34688-7711
Phone: 727-934-6141 / 3255

M300: Alliance invited for good looking, intelligent, accomplished, US born Jain boy, Feb 70, 5'11", BS, MS, well positioned in a reputed company in CA, from cultured, educated girls. Call: 408/981-2722 or 404/875-2335. Email: nirupama21@hotmail.com

M450: Physician, MD (emergency medicine), handsome, vegetarian, athletic, US born son, Oct 73, 6'3", 175 lb, Jain parents invite proposals from good natured, educated, vegetarian girls. Mail biodata / photo to: Dr. R. Kothari, 8551 Holmes Rd., #73, Kansas City, MO 64131.

M720: Gujarati parents invite proposals from cultured, educated girls for handsome, fair, vegetarian son, born July 76, 5'11", BS (comp sc), well employed with software co. Call: 804/272-0323. Email: kamani@comcast.net

M768: Alliance invited for talented, handsome, vegetarian, Gujarati Jain boy, born Nov 74, 5'6", MS (EE), well employed with famous co., from educated, cultured, pretty girls. Call: 248/608-8990. Email: nrshah78@hotmail.com

M864: Gujarati parents invite responses for very handsome, fair, brilliant, vegetarian, vivacious, US born son, Oct 76, 5'11", 140 lb, BS (civil engg), well employed as Quality Engineer, from cultured, educated, pretty girls. Call: 334/283-5340. Email: gosaliajay@hotmail.com

M921: Alliance invited for good looking, vegetarian, Gujarati Jain, 40, 5'10", Dip (ME), well employed with IT co., Divorcee, from family oriented, educated, Gujarati, suitable match. Call: 908/226-8981. Email: Nileshadani@yahoo.com

M922: Proposals invited for handsome, vegetarian, Gujarati boy, born Feb 74, 5'10", 140 lb, BE (electronics), well employed, from cultured, educated, family oriented, Gujarati girls. Call: 614/657-9060. Email: shahba@hotmail.com

M925: Responses invited for good looking, talented, vegetarian, US citizen, Gujarati Jain boy, born June 76, 5'11", 175 lb, BPharm, well employed with reputed pharmacy, from cultured, family oriented, professional Gujarati vegetarian girls. Call: 732/360-0699. Email: desiaashiq@hotmail.com

M926: Alliance invited for very handsome, fair, vegetarian, accomplished, Gujarati boy, born Sept 71, 5'8", 145 lb, BA, well positioned in GE as Investment Manager, innocently divorced (no issue), from cultured, educated, family oriented girls. Call: 203/356-1807. Email: hshah09@yahoo.com

M927: Gujarati parents invite proposals for handsome, brilliant, vegetarian son, born May 73, 5'5", 126 lb, Software consultant, from caring, cultured, family loving professional girls. Call: 913/484-8368 or 301/464-2976. Email: agammehta@hotmail.com or agam@sasdi.com

M933: Gujarati Jain uncle invites responses for US born, handsome, smart nephew, March 76, 5'5", 145 lb, BS (EE), working for family owned business, from educated, cultured girls. Call: 608/833-2989. Email: ptolat@merr.com

M934: Alliance invited with photo / biodata for good looking, successful, Vegetarian, Gujarati, practicing Physician, born Dec 69, 5'8", 135 lb, MD, Divorcee (no children), from educated, vegetarian girls. Call: 614/793-2215. Email: jhaveri@ameritech.net

M937: Gujarati parents invite proposals for handsome, well accomplished, vegetarian son, born Sept 76, 6'2", 170 lb, ACTUARIAL, well positioned as Actuary with a reputed co., from well educated, cultured, vegetarian girls. Call: 416/444-4232. Email: hansapm@yahoo.com

M938: Gujarati parents invite responses for handsome, highly successful, vegetarian, US raised son, born August 75, 5'8", MBA, well employed as Fin. Advisor with a famous co., from cultured, well educated girls. Call: 727/447-5121. Email: rkshah@hotmail.com

AM348: Gujarati parents invite biodata / photo from educated girls, for 28 year old professional son working in CA (Bay Area) in a senior management position. Excellent family background, education, temperament. (prefers in Bay area), cast no bar. Email: minesha@walmart.com Phone: 502/228-4001.

AM363: Gujarati parents invite correspondence for handsome, talented, vegetarian, US born / raised son, May 79, 6'0", 170 lb, BS (MIS), pursuing MBA, well positioned in a large Int'l Corp., from US born / raised, cultured, family oriented, professional, vegetarian girls. Call: 937/848-3228. Email: punatar@hotmail.com

AM364: Jain parents invite proposals with biodata / photo, for handsome, fair, intelligent, outgoing, successful son, June 72, 5'5", 140 lb, BS (marketing / economics), well employed as legal liaison with reputed US computer corp., from educated fair, pretty, cultured Gujarati girls. Email: paras627@hotmail.com

AM365: Gujarati parents invite responses with biodata / photo for US born, vegetarian son, March 75, 5'7", BS (Chem. Eng.), well employed with a reputed a co., from educated, pretty, cultured, family oriented girls. Call: 201/348-4959. Email: pcjain09@hotmail.com

MATRIMONIALS - FEMALE

F337: Physician, MD (Internal Medicine), slim, virtuous, vegetarian, 30 years, 5'4", 115 lb, Jain daughter. Parents invite biodata / photo from vegetarian educated boys. Mail to: 13660 Fairhill Road, Apt #308, Shaker Heights, OH 44120.

F519: Gujarati parents invite proposals for slim, pretty, smart & successful daughter, born March 71, Director in international media / communication corp. with blend of east/west, family values and culture, from well educated, handsome boys. Email: jpdamani@aol.com or Call: 724/733-0045

F581: Gujarati parents invite responses for beautiful, talented, cultured daughter, born Dec 73, 5'1", 110 lb, BS (molecular biology), biotech / software professional in Silicon Valley, CA, from well educated, cultured boys. Call: 408/272-6833.

F621: Gujarati parents invite responses for beautiful, talented, vegetarian, US born daughter, Dec 73, 5'7", MD, 1st year resident in Internal medicine, from vegetarian MD boys. Call: 407/366-8810.

F688: Gujarati Jain parents invite proposals with photo/ biodata for their beautiful, fair, charming, talented, vegetarian, US born dtr, July 75, 5'3", MPH, well positioned as Admn. Manager, from professional, cultured, well educated boys. Call: 419/841-8985. Email: sunnycoin@yahoo.com

F715: Gujarati parents invite responses from cultured, professional boys with diversified interests who love to laugh, for their beautiful, outgoing, vegetarian, family oriented US born dtr, Nov 74, 5'4", MBA /MS, with a successful career at a prestigious Multinational Call: 732/287-2738.

F766: Jain parents invite correspondence for very beautiful, fair, vegetarian, US born daughter, MS (Finance), 24 Yrs, 5'9", Please contact with biodata / photo: PO Box: 62831, Virginia Beach, VA 23466. Email: cmgs1@hotmail.com

F782: Gujarati parents invite proposals for beautiful, attractive, slim, vegetarian daughter, born Oct 76, 5'4", 110 lb, RN, well employed as RN at EMH, from cultured, educated boys. Call: 440/284-3947. Email: shahres@msn.com

F923: Gujarati parents invite responses for beautiful, gorgeous, talented, slim, vegetarian, US born dtr, June 77, 5'4", Pharm D, very well employed, from cultured, well educated, professional (MD preferred) boys. Call: 970/225-0632 Or 970/288-4723. email: sudhi52@yahoo.com

F924: Alliance invited for beautiful, fair, vegetarian girl, born 74, 5'4", JD, well employed as federal attorney, from professionals. Email: acquaint@yahoo.com Phone: 847/296-9796

F928: Gujarati parents invite responses for pretty, charming, vegetarian dtr, born June 74, 5'4", 126 lb, BCom, well employed, from cultured, educated boys. Call: 386/788-6502. email: csheth74@hotmail.com

F929: Gujarati parents invite correspondence for beautiful, fair, talented, vegetarian, US citizen dtr, born Feb 76, 5'3", MD (4th yr student), from cultured, well educated, professional boys. Call: 847/581-0872\ rugandhi@yahoo.com

F930: Uncle invite alliance for very pretty, charming, slim, caring, vegetarian, US born Gujarati niece, Jan 78, 5'7", 121 lb, MSc (chemistry), Dip. Software eng., from Gujarati professional, cultured, vegetarian, nonsmoker boys. She is currently in India. Call: 201/670-8451. Email: jshah@att.com

F931: Gujarati parents invite correspondence for beautiful, attractive, virtuous, vegetarian, US citizen daughter, born Jan 79, 5'10", BBA from Texas tech, well employed, from cultured, well educated, professional boys. Call: 972/964-0375. Email: amit86@aol.com

F932: Gujarati parents invite responses for pretty, charming, talented, vegetarian daughter, born Oct 76, 5'3", 127 lb, BS (business admn), well employed as comp programmer, from cultured, educated boys. Call: 941/466-9565 or 941/656-6272. Email: calmehta_2000@yahoo.com

F935: Proposals invited for beautiful, talented, caring, vegetarian Gujarati girl, born Nov 75, 5'3", 112 lb, BS, (Occupational Therapy), well employed as pediatric occupational therapist, from cultured, well educated, vegetarian, Gujarati boys. Call: 847/882-8944. Email: g_ami75@yahoo.com

F936: Responses invited for pretty, intelligent, vegetarian Gujarati girl, born June 66, 5'3", 125 lb, Bcom, Mehndi artist, beautician, self-employed, from cultured, educated boys. She is in India & willing to settle in USA. Call: 917/539-8822. Email: maharani@flash.net

AF361: Brother invite responses for beautiful, intelligent, vegetarian sister, born Sept 76, 5'5", B.Hsc, completed advanced course in comp. from educated, vegetarian Gujarati boys. She is currently in India & willing to settle in USA. Call: 732/355-9457. email: purvesh@irissoftinc.com

AF362: Alliance invited for pretty, family loving, vegetarian Gujarati girl, born July 68, 5'4", 105 lb, BS (Home Sc), was Teacher for 10 years in a reputed school, Divorcee, from cultured, suitable match. Call: 631/758-7596. Email: mia709@aol.com

AF366: Gujarati parents invite correspondence with biodata / photo for talented, pretty, cultured daughter, born June 74, 5'5", MD, doing 3rd year of residency, from educated, vegetarian boys. Call: 215/674-2688. Email: jyotishah49@hotmail.com

(continued on Page 22)



YOUNG JAINS OF AMERICA

Federation of Jain Associations in North America

A Non-Profit Tax Exempt Religious Organization. IRS Code Section 501 (c)(3) El #54-1280028

yja-exec@egroups.com • <http://www.yja.org/>

CHAIRS

Ronak Shah
918-269-7665
ronak.shah@yja.org
Chintan Shah
608-217-4807
chintan.shah@yja.org

DIRECTORS

Education

Shayna Parekh
562-865-1679
shayna.parekh@yja.org

Events

Shama Khandwala
847-985-6858
shamakhandwala@mail.com

Finance/Fundraising

Mintu Shah
708-275-1070
mintushah@mail.com

Information Technology

Beeneet Kothari
631-586-1579
beeneetkothari@mail.com

Fundraising

Dhrumil Purohit
302-832-0361
dhrumil.purohit@yja.org

Publications

Mansi Shah
858-722-1100
mansi.shah@yja.org

Public Relations

Kunal Shah
562-417-2700
kunal.shah@yja.org

REGIONAL COORDINATORS

Mid Atlantic

Neel Shetti
646-215-8913
neel.shetti@yja.org

Midwest

Suchita Shah
734-764-9770
suchita.shah@yja.org

Northeast

Vishal Jhaveri
503-292-1965
vishal.jhaveri@yja.org

South

Arpan Shah
281-980-6924
arpan.shah@yja.org

Southeast

Priya Palvia
678-525-5716
priya.palvia@yja.org

West

Karishma Shah
510-664-0383
karishma.shah@yja.org

Jai Jinendra!

YJA hopes you will join us in these exciting times and opportunities to spread and promote Jainism through youth.

One of the most active ways is joining the executive board. We are extremely excited to announce our 2002-2003 elections for the YJA Executive Board. The work is quite challenging, but also very exciting and rewarding (please visit www.yja.org/elections for the application process).

The executive board provides a forum to make wonderful friendships and build networking opportunities. The experience of being a YJA board member prepares you for work you will do in your career, functioning within short deadlines, communicating with others, producing projects with limited resources, and fundraising significant amount of money, and much more.

The YJA board is comprised of fifteen individuals. There are two co-chairs, seven director positions, and six regional coordinators. The board meets twice a year (in August and January). This year's August meeting will be held from August 8th to the 11th. It is imperative for the prospective board member to attend both meetings. The minimum age requirement is sixteen years of age, or 14 years of age if you are currently a recognized Local Representative for your Jain Center.

There are other great ways to get involved with YJA.

YJA has focused on building a powerful new website—www.yja.org. Our website now hosts a discussion board, where youth from all over America can post their thoughts on religious, social, and work-related subjects. YJA has also created an all-new Jain youth calendar on www.yja.org/calendar. Youth can witness upcoming Jain holidays and learn their respective meanings. Finally, YJA has added "Frequently Asked Questions," so youth can understand frequent misperceptions in Jainism.

Within one month, YJA will host its 5th biennial National Youth Convention in Mahwah, New Jersey from July 4th to July 7th for nearly 1000 youth. This year's theme, "Walking the Path of Jainism," teaches youth how to incorporate Jainism within their daily lives.

During this entire summer, YJA has teamed with Habitat for Humanity to build houses for those less fortunate. For one week, in sites all across America, youth will join together for one weekend and build a house. Please visit www.yja.org/h4h to join in this great cause. Join us and get involved in all of these exciting projects.

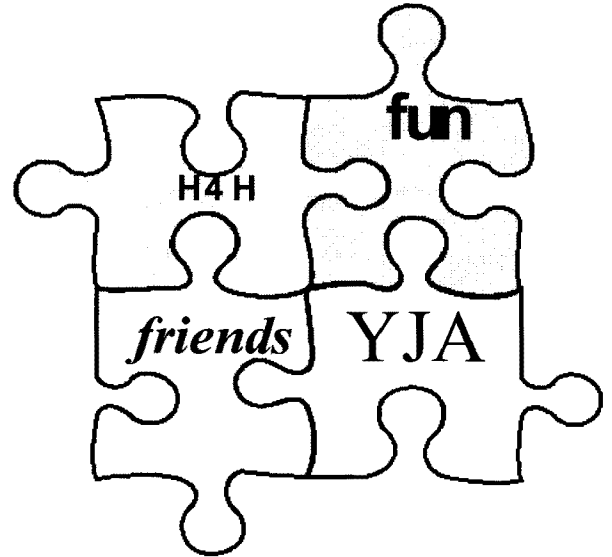
Ronak Shah and Chintan Shah
Co-Chairs, 2001-2002
Young Jains of America
Co-chairs@yja.org

Young Jains of America (YJA) is the umbrella youth organization of the Federation of Jain Associations in North America (JAINA). The mission of YJA is to be recognized nationally and internationally as an umbrella youth organization for establishing a network to share Jain heritage and religion through youth.

YOUNG JAINS OF AMERICA

One WEEKEND...
this SUMMER...
HELP solve a puzzle
(for FREE*)

Miami, Florida (Aug. 8th – 10th)
Newark, New Jersey (July 25th – 27th)
Austin, Texas (June 6th – 9th)
Battle Creek, Michigan (July 25th – 28th)
Long Beach, California (August 3rd)



* \$25 deposit required to guarantee your registration.
Deposit is refunded at time of participation.

Young Jains of America, friends, fun, and Habitat for Humanity...
THE PIECES JUST FIT SO WELL TOGETHER.

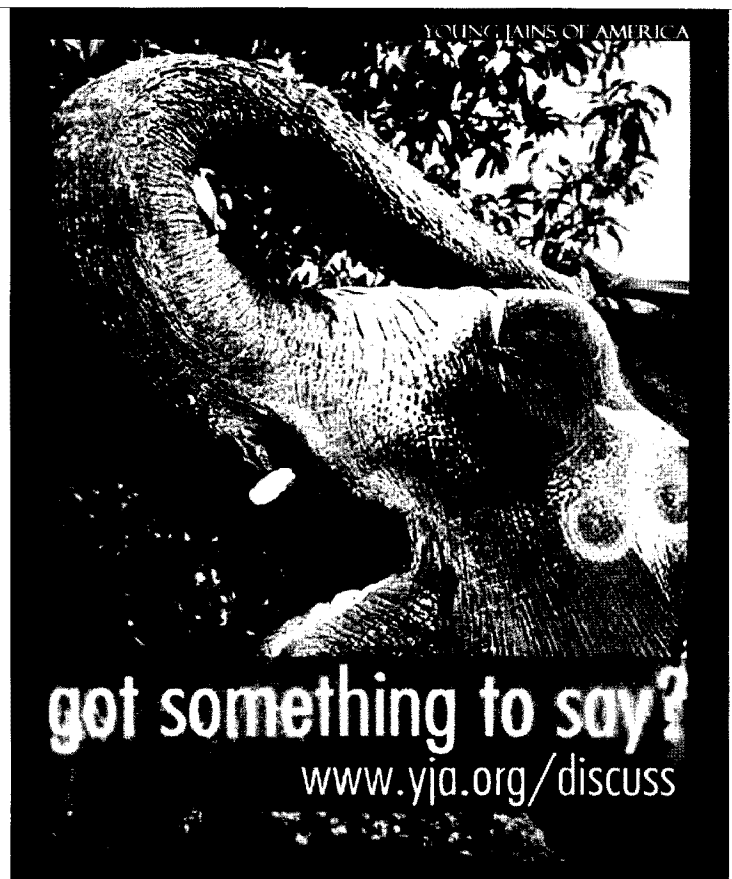
<http://www.yja.org/h4h>

Jain Academic Bowl

The 2002 YJA Convention will hold a Jain Academic Bowl tournament. During the three-day convention, teams representing their Jain Centers will compete in the Jain Academic Bowl (JAB). For those not familiar with the JAB, it is a head-to-head competition of Jain knowledge.

If you are interested in playing in a quiz bowl challenge with Jain knowledge questions, please contact Chintan Shah at chintan.shah@yja.org for more information. Teams from LA, New Jersey, Atlanta, Chicago, and various other cities are already slated to participate, so come join the challenge.

We want to accommodate as many players and teams as possible, so please get the information today to sign up.



YOUNG JAIN PROFESSIONALS (YJP)



Jai Jinendra,

We'd like to take this opportunity to tell you about the services and initiatives we have completed so far and provide you with some updates on coming events. To date, we have been very successful in executing the tasks we had planned for this year. Here are some highlights:

- Our new website www.yjponline.org was launched in February to provide up-to-date information to our members and allows them to sign-up on line.
- Local Lead Program** was launched in February to take YJP to the local level. The program aims to promote a sense of community, to help coordinate and increase networking events in local areas, and helps build a close-knit Jain community. We have received a very positive response from our members to participate in this program and currently have approximately 30 local leaders in various cities in US and Canada.
- "The New Jain"** (http://www.yjponline.org/index_newsletter_april.html), a periodic newsletter for our audience was launched in April. The newsletter provides an interactive forum for Young Jain Professionals to discuss ideas and principles of Jainism, provides a channel to share and learn from our professional experiences, and will be a means to update you with current affairs and community events.

In the coming months we are focusing on two major events: the YJP 5th annual YJP convention in October and the YJA convention in July.

YJP Convention: We would like to invite all of you to participate in a unique, fun-filled, and exciting 5th Annual YJP Convention to be held on the Columbus Day (October 12) weekend, in Montreal, Canada. Registration for this convention will be in June. This convention will give you a unique opportunity to meet Jain professionals from US and Canada in a relaxed and comfortable environment. We are planning a well-balanced program that will focus on key issues about religion, ethics, career, community, and culture and see how each impacts our everyday lives. In addition, we will have time specially dedicated to YJP Networking Forum activities. This will be an experience unlike any other. Come join us to get a flavor of YJP community. We look forward to seeing you there!!!

YJA Convention: We are planning two sessions at the YJA convention in July one of which will focus on the differences between our Jain beliefs and actual practices. The second session will give everyone a chance to learn more about our organization and meet the board in person.

YJP Board Contacts:

Sanjay Mehta, Chairperson
Paulomi Gudka, Vice Chair & Technology
Selene G. Parekh, Strategic Operations
Neha Jhaveri, Finance
Viral Shah, Communications
Rajesh Shah, Membership
Vatsal Doshi, Activities

Email

sanjay_mehta@yahoo.com
paulomi99@yahoo.com
avataars@yahoo.com
nehaj2000@hotmail.com
viral.shah@gs.com
rajesh7403@aol.com
vatsal_doshi@student.hms.harvard.edu

ATTENTION

Dear readers:

The JAIN DIGEST mailing list is being completely overhauled. This is the last issue of JAIN DIGEST being mailed from the current mailing list, which was started almost 20 years ago and continuously updated since that time. Many of you who do not receive the magazine have either moved or do not belong to any Jain Sangh or have migrated to North America in the last couple of years. Some of you receive more than one copy and others receive none.

We have urged all the member societies to send their current membership list and the combined list will form the new mailing list for JAIN DIGEST beginning with the next issue. JAINA is committed to send JAIN DIGEST to every Jain family in North America and we could fulfill our mission only with your cooperation. Please urge the society you are a member of to send the complete membership list to us. If you are not a member of any Jain society and would like to receive JAIN DIGEST, send your name at _____ Getzville, NY 14068-0700 or email at jainahq@aol.com

JAIN DIGEST MANAGING BOARD

FEDERATION OF JAIN ASSOCIATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA APPEAL

I want to help retaining Jain identity and culture by supporting JAINA and I want to be a proud Jain!

Please fill out this form and support JAINA.



**Mail this completed form and your financial contribution to:
JAINA Headquarters
PO Box 700 Getzville, NY 14068**

I want to be a Trustee of JAINA Charitable Trust and will donate \$500 every year

Name _____

I want to be a JAINA Patron and will donate \$251 every year

Address _____

I want to be a Life Member of JAIN DIGEST and will donate \$101

I want to subscribe to JAIN DIGEST for one year (Winter 2001 to Fall 2002) for \$11

Phone () _____

Other amount: \$10 \$25 \$50 R_____

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Please make checks payable to JAINA. Your donation is tax-deductible. Please advise if you wish 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.

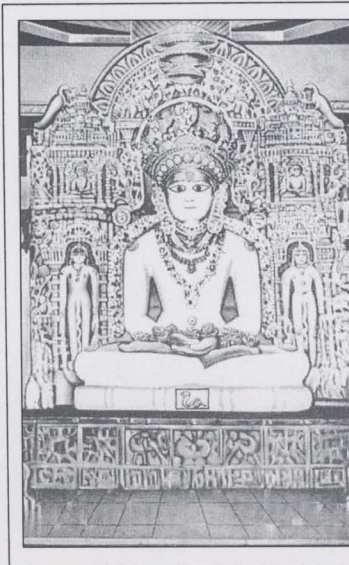
With best compliments to JAINA

**Dr. Navin C. Mehta,
M.B.B.S., M.D., P.C.**

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HEAD & NECK
FACIAL PLASTIC &
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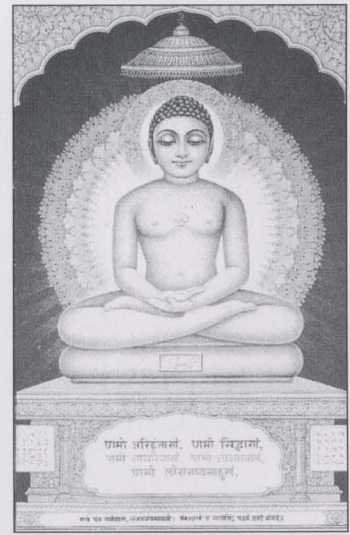
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Tirthankar Parsavnath



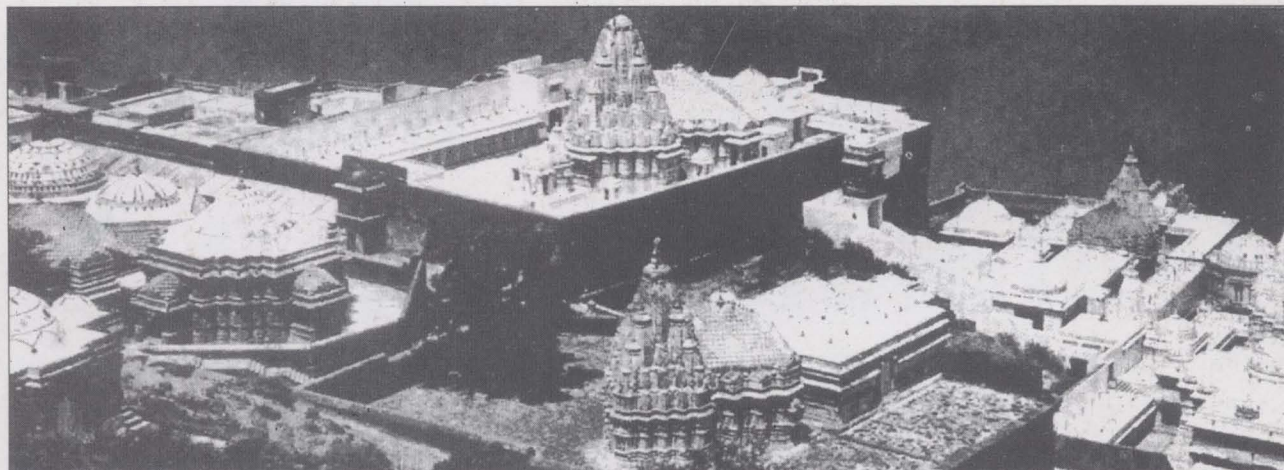
Jain temple format



Tirthankar Mahavir

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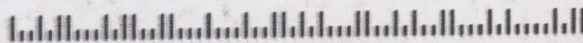
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Bandra (West), Bombay 400050
INDIA
TELEPHONE 6423031
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6425222
FAX: 6436421

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JAIN DIGEST Circulation
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