

JAIN DIGEST

A Publication by the Federation of Jain Associations in North America
Winter 2004

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Calendar 2004

www.jaina.org

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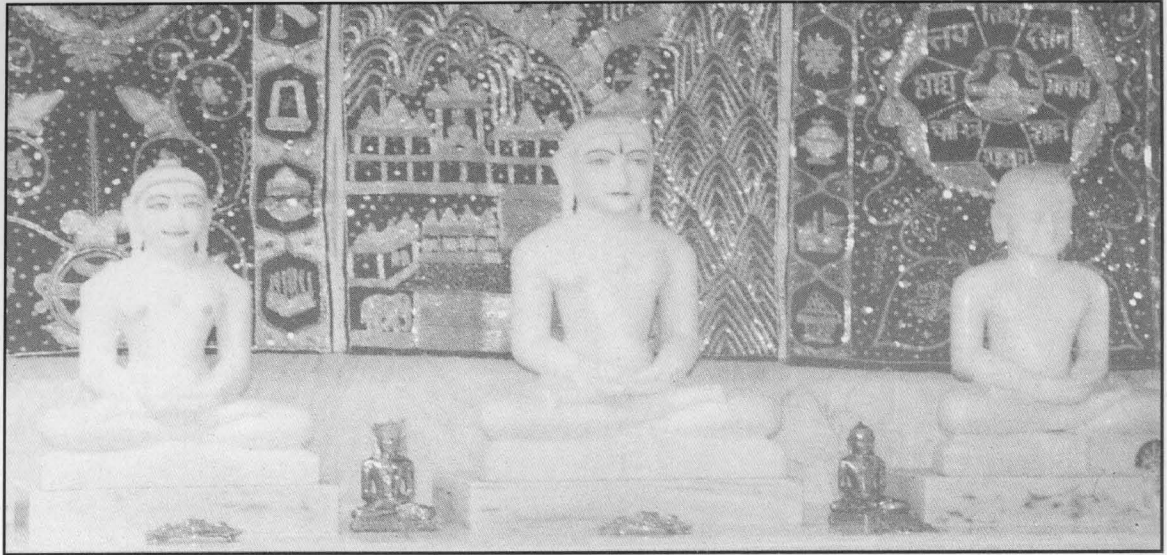
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JAI JINENDRA

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 सह हीन,
ते तो प्रभुअे आपियो, वर्तु चरणाधिन (१२५)

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

- Shri Atmasiddhi Shastra, Srimad Rajchandra -

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

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

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FROM THE PRESIDENT.....

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Jaina is on the move!

Jai Jinendra!

JAINA is on the move! Here is a brief synopsis what transpired over the last 3 months:



1. We started a monthly electronics newsletter called JAINA SPECTRUM in October. It has been very well received. We are thankful to the people who called us or emailed their message of support and appreciation. The real credit for this effort goes to Dilip V. Shah and Dhrumil Purohit for their hard work and dedication.
2. The Patron Program has started with a lot of gusto and enthusiasm. You will be pleased to know that most of the JAINA Executive Committee members have become either Grand, or Gold, or Silver Patrons. Uday Jain is doing a wonderful in promoting this program. Please support this important program because it is extremely crucial to make JAINA financially healthy on a long-term basis.
3. Our interfaith work has started accelerating. We believe this is an extremely important piece of our mission designed to expose the Western World with our values, ideals and culture. We have decided to send a delegation to the Parliament of World's Religions Conference to be held in July, 2004 in Barcelona, Spain. Naresh Jain and Hema Pokharana are leading this effort.
4. Dr. Bipin Parikh and his Senior Retirement Committee Members have developed a survey for your review and feedback. We need to assess your interest level in this project before we charge ahead. Please study the details in this issue and respond fast.
5. Kirit Daftary has developed the 2005 Convention guidelines and is in the process of sorting out the details for the next convention.
6. We are forming a new committee called "Legal Advisory Committee". We are grateful to Nitin Talsania who was instrumental in getting Mr. Prakash Parekh (NY) and Neel Shah (NJ) on board on a volunteer basis. These attorneys are well experienced and would be quite an asset to JAINA as we expand our reach and need their help on complex legal issues.
7. We are forming another committee called "Media/Public Relations Committee". Nitin Talsania will chair it. It is designed to make the community and the public-at-large aware of the JAINA activities and Jain events uniformly and timely throughout North America.
8. Dilip V Shah is very busy planning the pilgrimage to sacred places in Jaisalmer, Abu, Girnar & Palitana. World Community Service including WOH (Ramesh P Shah) is busy arranging the medical camps in India and shipping medical equipment and supplies.
9. YJP held their convention in San Diego in October very successfully. We are indeed very proud of these young Jains coming forward and preparing themselves for a leadership role in the community.
10. Rajeev Pandya has just printed a beautiful JAINA Calendar for the upcoming year for you all. It is indeed a gem. You will love it.

This is just a brief summary of our progress. Please read this entire issue carefully and make yourself aware of the depth and breadth of activities JAINA volunteers have undertaken to serve you better. Please do your part and support us to the best of your ability.

With Warmest Personal Regards,

Anop R. Vora

Anop R. Vora, President

Cover: JAINA 2004 Calendar Parshwanath Temple,
Mirpur, Rajasthan, 10th - 11th Century.

Moving? Receiving duplicate copies?
Send your address corrections to:

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Federation of JAINA
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JAIN DIGEST

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The Managing Editorial Board will endeavor to publish all material submitted but reserves the right to edit and/or reformat for clarity and space restrictions. The views expressed in the articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Managing Editorial Board of JAIN DIGEST.

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Fall (September)	August 15th
Winter (December)	November 15th

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR OF JAIN DIGEST

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

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Jai Jinendra !

I wish you all a very Prosperous,
Peaceful and Spiritual New Year.

This issue of JAIN DIGEST is dedicated to Chairpersons of various JAINA Committees. Presently JAINA has thirty five committees and chairperson of each of these committees have worked day in and day out for years to bring JAINA's services to the 100,000 Jains living in North America and India. They devote their time, money and efforts. They are driven by the motive to make a small difference in the world. Without them, JAINA could not be JAINA. We are proud of them and our hats off to them.

As once someone said :

*"World is not moved by
one mighty push
But by sum total
of all tiny pushes.*

Lata Champsee

World Medical Relief, Inc. has selected JAINA for their **OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT TO THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY AWARD**. Their President wrote: "This award is being conferred to JAINA for your overwhelming support to the medically impoverished in India. You have shown much compassion- and at great sacrifice- to your fellow countrymen, and we admire your good works tremendously."

They will honor JAINA on March 6, 2004 in Michigan. It is a great recognition we should all be proud of Ramesh P. Shah, Rashmi Gardi, and Dhiraj H. Shah whose dedication and hard work has made this award possible.

JAINA 2004 CALENDAR

JAINA is delighted to present you this beautiful This year's calendar continues it's *Yatra* of the rich history of Jain Art & Architecture pre-12th Century. These pictures of 12 architecturally and historically important Jain Temples, Jain Tirths (Temple Cities), Cave Temples, Rock Sculptures and Mountain Carvings geographically dispersed throughout India, depict the richness and vastness of Jain culture across the Indian sub-continent, as well as establishing Jainism as one of the world's most ancient religion.

Thanks to an overwhelmingly positive response by the Jain Community, we are again able to freely distribute 12,000 copies of the JAINA 2004 Calendar to Jain families across North America and other parts of the world. Over 3,500 sets of the JAINA Mini - Library have been distributed to all those who responded and requested for these book sets. We hope to continue to make these Book Sets available to selected Colleges & University Libraries and to all the Jain Center's Pathsala Teachers in North America.

Rajeev Pandya

Chairman, JAINA Calendar and Mini Library Committee.

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:
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PO Box 700 Getzville, NY 14068

**Please send your \$151.00 Jain Digest life membership dues
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- ☐ I want to be a Trustee of JAINA Charitable Trust and will
donate \$500 every year
- ☐ I want to be a JAINA Patron and will donate \$251 every year
- ☐ I want to be a Life Member of JAIN DIGEST and will donate \$151
- ☐ other amount: ☐ \$10 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ _____

Name _____

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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.

Historic Moment for the Hindus and Jains at The White House

Washington, DC: October 23, 2003. Today marked a historic time for Hindus and Jains in the United States as well as around the world. The White House celebrated its first ever Diwali event. Among the 100 honored guests were representatives of various civic organizations and prominent government officials. In a ceremony rich with tradition, a "dipak" (lamp) was lighted by Mr. Karl Rove, Special Advisor to President George W. Bush, in front of Lord Ganesha and Goddess Laxmi to invoke their blessings during this age-old Festival of Lights celebration. Addressing the guests in the Indian Treaty room where the original U.N. Charter was signed, Rove said, "I just spoke with the President who called from Pearl Harbor; he sends his Diwali greetings to you and to the Hindu and Jain community worldwide." He added, "The President would have been here today, had it not been for his trip to Asia and Australia."

Leading the invocation was Dr. Anant Rambachan, professor of Religion at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota who highlighted the significance of Diwali and its relevance in today's environment. Mr. Neil Patel, a political appointee serving in the Office of Vice President Dick Cheney was the Master of Ceremony. Speaking next, underscoring the historic importance of the event, Mr. Gopal Khanna, Chief Financial Officer at The Peace Corps, said, "This celebration symbolizes the Bush Administration's recognition of America's rich religious and ethnic diversity. Today's event establishes a tradition that will, for generations to come, strengthen America as a nation that remains committed to, secularism and inclusion in its mainstream, people of all faiths." Mr. Khanna continued, "This historic White House celebration happened because of a conversation Dr. Piyush C. Agrawal, National President of the Association of Indians in America, had with President Bush about six weeks ago. During that meeting Dr. Agrawal urged the President to celebrate the Hindu festival of Diwali at The White House." The President promised Dr. Agrawal that he would look into the matter and, to the delight of the growing Indian American community, we are here celebrating this event together today. When asked about the highlights of the event, Dr. Piyush C. Agrawal responded, "There were at least two very significant items; the event was held at The White House within six weeks of the request to the President and representatives from all major Indian organizations were present at the event including Muslims, Sikhs, Jains and Christians. It was truly an elegant affair." He added "President Bush deserves our sincere 'gratitude' for creating history by opening the door of The White House for a Hindu ceremony. We are sure that the tradition will continue and this is the beauty of America."

The Association of Indians in America (AIA) commissioned a Commemorative Silver Coin struck in honor of the occasion. All those in attendance at the ceremony received the coin as a Diwali Gift. The coin depicts the deities Ganesha and Laxmi on one side with the reverse side bearing the inscription "First Diwali At The White House 2003".



**I remember you requested Jain food but I understand Jains do not eat
after sunset and it's midnight so we didn't prepare a meal for you !**

JAINA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
AND
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
AT SIDDHACHALAM



SUMMARY OF JAINA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS (DIR) MEETING HELD AT SIDDHACHALAM ON 3RD AND 4TH OCT 2003

Executive committee members present: Mr. Anop Vora, Mr. Kirit Daftary, Mr. Sushil Jain, Mrs. Lata Champsee, Mr. Udai Jain, Mr. Rohak Vora, Mr. Sumati Shah, Mr. Keerti Shah, Mr. Bipin Parikh and Mr. Kamlesh Amin (JAINA Executive Director).

Directors and Guests: Mr. Kamlesh Amin, Mr. Sudhir M. Shah, Mr. Chandrakant M. Shah, Dr. Mamta Shaha, Mr. Rajendra Kumar, Mr. Jaysingh Bhandari, Mr. Jashwant Shah, Mr. Vinay Vakhani, Mr. Naresh Jain, Mr. Pravin C. Shah, Mrs. Urmila J. Shah, Mr. Ashok J. Desai, Mr. Dilip V. Shah, Mr. Dhruval Purohit, Mr. Gunvant Shah, Mr. Nirmal Dosi, Mrs. Anita Shah, Mrs. Kanta P. Shah, Mrs. Vimla V. Vakani, Mrs. Asha Jain, Mrs. Rekha Parikh, Mrs. Hema Shah, Mr. Rajeev Pandya, Mr. Kamlesh Shah, Mr. Nitin Talsania, Mrs. Urmila Desai.

The Siddhachalam Trustees met with JAINA executive committee members to seek opportunities to assist in promoting Siddhachalam as Teerth in North America. Many ideas were exchanged for exploration and implementation.

Presidents and JAINA 2003 convention report: Mr. Anop Vora – After a brief introduction by each member present, Anopji thanked everyone for coming and making this meeting a success. He remarked that many people offered compliments to JAINA and Cincinnati/Dayton Sangh for doing an outstanding job in every aspect of the convention. He recognized all people involved and publicly thanked them for their excellent support. He added that, due to the efforts of every committee, there was significant savings, to benefit JAINA, local Sangh and future conventions.

Treasurer's report: Due to unexpected circumstances, the treasurer's report was not available. However, JAINA is financially healthy at this point. A report will be posted on JAINA web site in the near future.

Passing resolution: Sushilji briefly outlined a customized procedure to pass a motion/resolution as approved by EC (EC03-004). He added that we will use "Robert's Rules of Parliamentary Procedure" as a reference.

Patron program presentation: Udaiji led discussion on JAINA Patron program as approved by EC (EC03-001). He started with a brief historical review and outlined past successes and opportunities to improve. He described the details of patron's program and announced the names of individuals who already pledged to become high level JAINA patrons. A question was raised regarding JAINA having too many varieties of memberships. JAINA EC agreed that none of the existing programs will be withdrawn or compromised. Udaiji noted many positive and supportive comments and questions raised during discussion.

Committee re-structuring presentation: Anopji presented current committee re-structure plans as approved by JAINA EC (EC03-002). He announced that the functions of seven committees are being eliminated and two committees are being re-named. He also announced a change in leadership in some committees, as well as formation of six new committees. The remaining committees and their functions remain unchanged. In conclusion, it was decided that we will have a brief description/statement of each committee. This information will assist in gaining knowledge regarding each committee as well as avoid redundancies among committees. A comment was made regarding the importance of keeping Ahimsa committee active. Similar comment was voiced regarding possible duplication with JAIN network forum and MIS. In addition, a comment was made that each committee be required to send their progress report to the secretary. It was suggested that VP should facilitate the reporting process.

Director-at-large announcement: Anopji announced names and brief biographical details of each appointee as approved by the EC (EC03-003). Mrs. Pramodaben Chatrabhanu, Mr. Madhav Jain, Dr. Mahesh Shah, Mr. Sanjay K. Pandya, Mr. Samprati Shah, Mr. Vijay Chheda, one more member to be announced.

Convention 2005 presentation: Kiritji reported that we have interest from several Jain centers to host JAINA 2005 with the strongest interest arising from Jain Sangh of Tampa; FL. JAINA EC is still working on guidelines. JAINA's goal is to establish a permanent National Convention Committee. Kiritji & Mamtaji reported that he received much input from attendees which included both compliments and opportunities to improve.

Technology committee: Girishji made a detailed presentation on the goals and objective of this committee to build and maintain technology needs, as well as provide technology services to JAINA committees and members. They will develop e-mail addresses and links to all member organizations. He announced the names of Technology coordination committee members.

Jain Digest: Lataji informed that Jain Digest goes to over 11,000 readers. She added that Jain Digest is unfairly compared with Jain Spirit. There are major differences in both. In an effort to improve the publication, she invited comments for improvements. There were many good comments and suggestions made regarding improvement, including active editorial board to check for accuracy of materials being published. She appealed for help with the contents and timely reports and articles, as well as guidance on what types of articles to publish.

JAINA/ Mission/Strategic Goals: Sushilji presented a slide show emphasizing the importance of developing JAINA vision, mission and strategic goals. The purpose would be to plot a unified road map for our future. Furthermore, it will serve to allocate and maximize resources to meet the set objectives. In addition, he presented an initial draft of Plans of Action and milestones to address the recommendations received from many directors and past presidents for improvements. These presentations and plans will be submitted to the Long Range planning committee for review and incorporation.

YJA report: On behalf of YJA, Dhruvil informed, YJA board is working on organizing

regional conferences in Boston, Atlanta and other cities throughout N. America. The next YJA convention will be in San Francisco, and plans are underway to host over 1000 youths. In addition, youths are working on a second trip to Virayatan, as well as continuing to support projects like Habitat for Humanity.

JAINA Spectrum presentation: Dilipji explained the need to establish JAINA spectrum for the purpose of timely news and announcements. The spectrum is intended as brief synopses of activities. One may obtain details by going to the original source. It will be published once a month and e-mailed to individuals in JAINA e-mail group. All material intended to be published in JAINA Spectrum may be sent continuously.

Membership Committee: Kamlesh Shah presented the application from Jain Society of Las Vegas for Associate membership of JAINA. The Board approved the application as associate member(DIR03-001). In addition, Kamleshji will forward a draft copy of membership guidelines by e-mail for review.

Education Committee : Sudhirji made a slide presentation outlining multi-phased publication of Jain Sutra translated into English, Jain storybook publication, and sketch book. The committee will insure that material contents will represent all sects of Jainism and edited to insure accuracy.

Pilgrim committee: Dilipji briefly announced that the next pilgrimage to India will depart on Jan 18th for a 17 day trip to Jaisalmer, Palitana, Abu and Girnar. More details are available on JAINA web site.

Teerthodhar committee: Kiritji reported that this committee facilitated a health camp resulting in over 1200 Sadhu's and Sadhviji being examined. The pilot project in Lachwad is progressing better than expected with over 350 enrolled students. As a result the Lachwad management has requested \$40,000 to build eight additional class rooms. The residence of Lachwad and surrounding area are very happy and thankful to JAINA. The JAINA will send \$5000. Similar projects are being replicated at other locations.

JAINA Public Affairs Council: Sushilji reported that upon the request of American Jewish Council, we have written a letter to House Representative Moran protesting his comments that Jews were the reason for problems in the middle-east. Several other letter of disappointment was written to current and former elected officials when we felt our religious freedom was being

challenged. In addition, we endorsed a request to continue R (religious) visa category. Every year this legislation comes up for vote to retain or eliminate the law. Every year fundamental Christians both on the House and Senate side are ready to further restrict R visa guidelines/ or to eliminate it all together.

Senior Housing: Bipinji reported that there is a great need to build senior housing near temples. We have offers from developers that if we facilitate enrollment/sale of housing to 40 or more families, the developer will offer an exclusive Jain facility including facility for prayers. There was healthy discussion on pros and cons of project(s) of this nature. His team is exploring feasibilities, opportunities, responsibility, as well as liability. He will present his findings at the next meeting.

V.R. Gandhi Scholarship Committee: Pravinji reported that they raised nearly \$4500 and awarded seven scholarships to students for their studies in Jainism. In addition, they published and distributed over 3,100 copies of a book about V.R. Gandhi.

Scholar visitation Committee: Nirmalji highlighted the importance of spiritual leaders coming from India. He commented that obtaining visas for them is becoming increasingly difficult. He outlined JAINA internal processes and procedures for sponsoring and reasons that may have contributed to problem. In addition, he outlined health insurance problem. In cooperation with YJA and YJP, a list of local scholars was put together to meet the needs until a viable solution can be implemented. Soon he will send an advisory to all Jain organizations emphasizing the need to purchase visitor health insurance for all Monks, Scholars, etc.

Calendar committee: Rajeevji presented a brief report on the progress of 2004 JAINA calendar. He stated that calendar is in its final version of editing. The committee's goal is to mail Jain calendars by December. Currently the calendars are being mailed to JAIN DIGEST mailing list. For those who wish to be on the mailing list, please contact JAINA HQ by e-mail.

Constitution and By-laws Committee: Anopji reported that Dr. Manibhai Mehta had sent an electronic copy to directors for potential changes. The EC will initiate compiling comments from various leaderships of JAINA and forward to the committee for their research and recommendations.

JAINA liability/ visa report: Sushilji reported that according to knowledgeable people, JAINA may be liable for all actions by officers in performance/ execution of their duties as well as any mishap that occurs while the officer is executing his/her duties. After a detailed discussion, it was agreed that, Pravin Vakhani, insurance expert, will be requested to look into purchasing a general liability policy. At the same time, it was agreed that there is a great need for pro-bono legal advisory committee to advise JAINA on legal matters. On the visa issue, Sushilji was advised by the authorities that all individuals coming to the U.S. to perform religious duties should apply for visa under R status. It was noted that in the past almost all Sadhu, Sadhviji and scholars come on visitor visa. Due to the confusing nature of this issue, it was agreed that we need formal legal advice before taking any action.

General Topic: Nareshji announced that 4th Parliamentary of World Religion Conference will be held in Barcelona, Spain in July 2004. It is requested that JAINA takes active role and send a delegation. If desired Hema Pokharna from Chicago can be of assistance, since she is one of the conference organizers. He will send more details by e-mail. Girishji announced that JAINA should look into sponsoring Ahinsa Chair at one of the California Universities. He will send details by e-mail.

Wheel of Hope: Ramesh Shah forwarded a written report. During this reporting period several containers were shipped to India. Each container contained medical furniture, supplies for medical camp and medical equipment. He requests that JAINA set aside funds for shipping costs, surgical procedures for children and cardiac patients.

*Prepared by Dr. Sushil Jain,
Secretary, JAINA*

COMMITTEE NEWS:

History of Jainism & Jains in North America

JAINA has decided to compile the "History of Jainism & Jains in North America". During the past century, lots of efforts have gone in bringing Jainism in North America but nothing noteworthy has been recorded. There is a rich history of how Jainism is known over fifty states of America and ten provinces of Canada and how Jains throughout NA have established themselves. Each of the more than seventy-five Jain organizations in more than sixty cities have their own stories as part of their contribution in the growth and development of Jainism. Now, it is necessary to put everything into one huge docu-book for the benefit of the future generation. For this great project of importance, call is given for support and cooperation and thus help in writing the true exhaustive history. Anyone having any information like articles & books written by you and/or others, details about Jain artefacts with you and/or at other places, history of local centres, timeline of milestone of events, etc. which can be used in making this publication complete and comprehensive. Please send only copies and do not part with originals now. Any info-material used will be suitably acknowledged with credit. You are invited to send such info-materials to Mr. Jaswant Mehta at his email address of jvmehta2000@yahoo.com or mail at: Jsawant Mehta, #203, 2910 - 109 Street, Edmonton, AB, T6J 7H4."

JAINA / JCSC NATIONAL LIBRARY

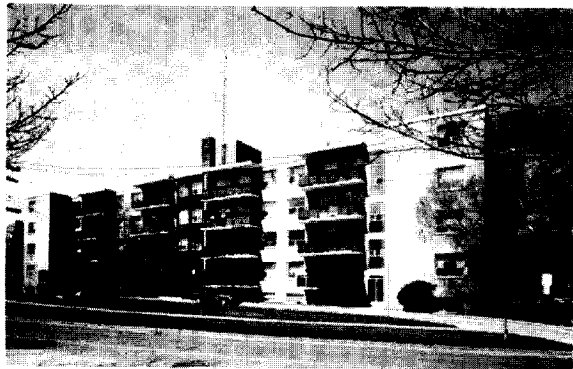
The JAINA/JCSC National Library is managed by the Jain Center of Southern California (JCSC) and is housed in the main hall at the Jain Center in Buena Park near Los Angeles. Thirty custom-designed cabinets have been purchased by JCSC to house a comprehensive library collection of books, audiocassettes, videos, and CDs.

To fulfill the aim of making the library collection available to any interested member in the United States and Canada, an effort is under way to compile a comprehensive list of all the library books and make it available on the Internet. JCSC has purchased a printer, a barcode reader, and 'Librarysoftware' to catalog and facilitate the book transactions. Several JCSC volunteers and a part-time paid staff member have already cataloged nearly 90% of the library books and the list will be posted on the Internet shortly. An interested member will be able to search the books by title/author and send an e-mail request to the librarian to forward the material to him/her. The material will be mailed to the requester within 7 days. The recipient will be responsible for returning the material to the library.

For further information as well as to contribute donations for this library project, please contact Prakash Gandhi at (562) 926-6798 (pigandhi4@aol.com) or Ramesh Doshi at (714) 995-8914 (rcdoshi@yahoo.com).

COMMITTEE NEWS:

Are you thinking about Retirement Home? If Yes, Talk to JAINA Senior Housing Committee.



Dear Dharmabandhu

Many of us are fast approaching retirement. We have worked very hard all our life and now is the time to relax. At the least, you may want to acquire a **2nd home for retirement**. Or you may want to move to a warm climate and company of like-minded Jains.

JAINA leadership has recognized the need for such facilities for our community. JAINA has conducted some initial research and has looked at retirement communities. At the last executive committee meeting, JAINA formed a Sub-committee (Senior Housing Committee) to study these requirements and

to develop detailed demographic information. As their first act, the Senior Housing Committee has developed the attached survey form to get your input for this type of community.

The purpose this form is to learn about your desires and compile a list of facilities that would be desirable by the community. Such information and demographics will be made available to potential developers to interest them to develop such facilities across the country. The information will be of statistical nature and no personal information will be released unless authorized by you on the survey form. JAINA will not have any financial interest in any of these projects.

We request every family to respond to us as soon as possible by mail or e-mail to Bipin Parikh c/o JAINA Hq (see addresses below). To respond by e-mail just save on your computer, fill in the details and attach to the e-mail you send to us.

JAINA Senior Housing Committee Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>ST</u>	<u>e mail address</u>	<u>Tel:</u>
Dr. Bipin Parikh	IL	dmdmrch@core.com	847 699 1294
Mr. Kirit Daftary	TX	netrat@att.net	254 776 4209
Mr. Pankaj Dalal	TX	rgmrchnt@earthlink.net	713 666 9448
Mr. Bipin Shah	FL	bshah5380@aol.com	727 786 1976
Dr. Dhiraj Shah	NY	dhshah1@hotmail.com	716 773 1314
Mr. Gunvant Shah	NJ	profgaryshah@yahoo.com	732 246 4030
Mr. Kanti Shah	CA	ktshah32@hotmail.com	946 459 8299
Mr. Keerti Shah	IL	knshah@att.net	630 837 8716
Mr. Pravin M. Shah	IL	goodroofer@yahoo.com	815 693 0575

Mailing address

Bipin Parikh

C/O JAINA HQ P.O.Box 700 Gatesville NY 14068-0700

jainahq@jaina.org

Sadharmic Bhawan / Retirement Community Home Survey

Your Name: _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone No. _____ E-address _____

1. When would you like to plan your move to a retirement community?

1 to 2 years _____ **2 to 4 Years** _____ **5 Years** _____ **10 years up** _____

2. Which state do you want to retire?

Arizona _____ **California** _____ **Florida** _____ **Nevada** _____ **Texas** _____ **other (Name)** _____.

3. What type of facility do you need to relocate?

Apartment Condo _____ **Town Home** _____ **High Rise Condo** _____ **Manufactured / Modular Housing** _____ **House** _____

4. How many bedrooms do you need?

Studio _____ **one Bedroom** _____ **Two Bedroom** _____ **Three Bedroom** _____

5. Approximately how much space would you desire?

1000 Sq. Ft _____ **1200 Sq. Ft.** _____ **1500 Sq. Ft.** _____ **1800 Sq Ft.** _____ **2000 Sq. Ft.** _____ **2500 Sq. Ft.** _____ **Other** _____

6. What price can you pay for the house (including Mortgage)?

\$60,000 _____ **\$100,000** _____ **\$160,000** _____ **\$200,000** _____ **\$250,000** _____ **\$300,000** _____ **Other** _____

7. How much monthly assessment fee can you pay? Please note that need for more common amenities will raise the monthly payments.

Approximate initial Monthly Assessment fee: \$150 _____ **\$200** _____ **\$250** _____ **\$300** _____ **any** _____

8. As a Jain it is understood that we all need a Jain temple (preferably close-by walkable). Also a good size **community hall with kitchen** is always desirable. What other facility would you want? What amenities will you like to see? Examples: **Community Kitchen & dining hall to eat daily.** Yes _____ No _____ **Health Club with Sports facility.** Yes _____ No _____ **Membership fee** _____

Nearby Shopping _____ Medical Clinic _____ 24 Hr. Nurse _____ Other _____

ANOTHER JAINA ACTIVITY IS BEING INTRODUCED FOR YOUR BENEFIT.

JAINA has identified a Retirement Community project being planned in Central Florida and is in the process of doing a due diligence on this project. This project plans to build 200 condominiums and 100 homes for the Hindu and Jain community. It may include Jain Temple (if at least 40 Jain families sign up), community hall, dining room, health club, and medical center. Please indicate your interest in such a project by answering question below.

If JAINA identifies such a viable project, would you be willing to put up a good faith deposit of \$ 1,000 Yes _____ NO _____.

Such a facility may include the following.

At the minimum 40 Jain family condominiums in a four-story building with a Jain Temple on the site is required. This condominium building will have Studio, One bedroom, two bedrooms and Three-bedrooms facility.

- **Located near Western Florida coast. (One hour drive)**
- **Easy access to Airport / Hospital / Bank / Grocery and Drug store.**
- **Start planning June 2004 and completion is expected to be in two years.**
- **Common full kitchen run by cooks for Indian cuisine.**
- **Access to doctor on the facility will be available (at least 2 hrs. on weekdays). Nearby hospital and emergency medical assistance facility is available. Daytime Nurse is available on the site.**

What is your level of interest in above project? - **Very Interested** _____ **Interested** _____ **Not Interested** _____

Do we have your permission to provide your contact information and your survey answers to the potential developers?

- **YES** _____ **NO** _____

JAINA PATRON PROGRAM

Jai Jinendra

Every Jain in North America is the part of the JAINA or JAINA is the part of every Jain family. Jaina is a functional organization and therefore Jaina's obligations are enormous. JAINA is doing works in many fields:

1. National Convention - Gathering of Jain families and friends.
2. Medical - Sending equipments to different hospitals in India.
3. Education - Different syllabus for different classes. Publishing books etc.
4. Jive Daya
5. Future Leaders - Y.J.A. and Y.J.P.
6. Human Services - Through world community services like earthquake relief etc
7. Jain Prayers - In different government as well as many other places.
8. Housing for Seniors Citizens - Program providing services for elderly Jains.
9. Matrimonial - Bringing young adults together as life partners.



All these activities are done with generous support from Jain individuals, Jain communities and Jain Sanghs.

Attached is the PATRON PROGRAM with a several categories to choose from such as Grand Patron, Gold Patron, Silver Patron, and Patron. The benefits for each category are explained in details. The PATRON ENROLLMENT FORM is also attached for your convenience.

On behalf of Jaina, I am appealing to you, the Jains to become Grand or Gold or Silver Patron. Now as they say charity begins at home, we, the executive committee have contributed dollars and therefore become Patrons as per attached list.

JAINA relies on people like you and I who understand the need to respect, honor and care for our principles. So please fill out the Patron Enrollment Form and send it with your Tax-deductible check payable to JAINA to Patron Program Committee Chairman:

Mr. Udai Jain
3902 Senna Place
Sugar Land, TX 77479
Phone: 281.980.0741
E-Mail: jainudai1@aol.com

With warm regards,

Udai Jain
Chairman, Patron Program Committee

Patrons as of Nov 30/03

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1. Mr. Udai Jain | Grand Patron |
| 2. Mr. Anop Vora | Gold Patron |
| 3. Mr. Kirit Daftary | Gold Patron |
| 4. Dr. Sushil Jain | Gold Patron |
| 5. Dr. Sumati Shah | Gold Patron |
| 6. Mrs. Lata Champsee | Silver Patron |
| 7. Dr. Bipin Parikh | Silver Patron |
| 8. Mr. Jit Turakhia | Silver Patron |
| 9. Mr. Rohak Vora | Silver Patron |

JAINA PATRON PROGRAM

OBJECTIVE:

2003 JAINA convention was a great showcase to demonstrate what the Jain community in North America can do. We should all feel proud of this achievement. Please remember that JAINA offers a unifying force and we should all support it to the best of our ability so that JAINA can continue holding conventions and help the Jain community in many areas.

JAINA has very limited sources of revenue and therefore must depend upon the generosity of its members for financial support. It has experienced financial difficulties off and on in the past but the time has come to address this ongoing problem once for all and make JAINA a powerful force.

The Patron Program is aimed at making JAINA financially solvent on a continual basis. Please bear in mind that we cannot operate the organization effectively without a strong financial back up from the community.

Please note that we will keep the donations received from the Grand, Gold, and Silver Patrons in a separate "Endowment Fund". We intend to use only the interest from this fund to meet the day-to-day expenses of running JAINA. We strongly urge the community to become either a Grand or a Gold or a Silver Patron and make JAINA financially healthy for years to come.

Patron Structure:

Membership Term:

January 1st – December 31st

BENEFITS:

Patron (1 yr membership):

1. Jain Digest by First Class mail
2. Listing in Jain Digest once a year
3. JAINA Calendar by First Class mail
4. Recognition at JAINA Day when celebrated at their center
5. Priority reservation for Pilgrimage
6. Preferred allocation for rooms at the Convention hotels (within set time limits).
7. Priority seating at the Convention

Silver Patron (5 yr membership):

Same as Patron, **Plus**

8. Extra copy of Calendar upon request
9. Photograph of Silver Patron and spouse in Jain Digest

Gold Patron (10 yr membership):

Same as Silver Patron, **Plus**

10. Photograph of Gold Patron and spouse in Jain Digest
11. Three extra copies of JAINA calendars upon request
12. Copy of Teerth Darshan Book (An exquisite pictorial book on Jain teerths)

Grand Patron (Life time membership):

Same as Gold patron, **Plus**

13. Five extra copies of JAINA calendars upon request
14. Bdges/Ribbons of Grand Patron for two, so they can wear it at the Convention for preferred seating.

What your participation would mean

1. Sending Jain Digest & Jaina Calendar free to all Jain families of N. America.
2. Preparing a Jain studies curriculum for our children, publishing important books and helping every Jain Sangh as much as possible.

Allowing JAINA to take new initiatives such as Electronic Monthly Bulletin (JAINA Spectrum), Senior Housing Projects, Long Range Planning, Increased Interfaith activities, Jain History Project etc.

PATRON ENROLLMENT FORM:

I would very much like to support JAINA Patron Program. Enclosed is my tax-deductible check, payable to JAINA for:

Grand Patron	\$5,000
Life Time membership	
Gold Patron	\$2,000
10 Year Membership	
Silver Patron	\$1,100
5 Year Membership	
Patron	\$250
1 Year Membership	

Name: Mr./ Mrs./Ms./ Dr. _____

Address: _____

Phone:(Res.) _____

(Off.) _____

(Fax) _____

(Please mail in forms to **JAINA Hq, PO Box 700, Getzville, NY 14068, USA**)

Patron Program Committee

Mr. Udai Jain (**Chairman**): 281-980-0741

Dr. Bharat K. Shah: 314-567-4071

Dr. Dhiraj H. Shah: 716-773-1314

Mr. Dilip V. Shah: 215-561-0581

Mrs. Ilaben Mehta...419-865-2727

Mr. Kirit Daftary: 254-776-4209

Mr. Kishor C. Shah 630-671-0001

Dr. Mahesh Shah: 937-836-8080

Dr. Mamta Shaha: 516-487-1852

Dr. Manibhai Mehta: 714-898-3156

Ms. Neha Jhaveri: 303-683-1499

Mr. Nirajan Shah ...847-330-1088

Mr. Prem Jain: 408-981-4645

Mr. Sanjay Pandya 212-319-8291

Ms. Shama Khandwala 847-985-6858

Mr. Vijay Chheda: 714-573-1324

COMMITTEE NEWS:

V. R. Gandhi Scholarship Committee

“ JAINA Shri V.R. Gandhi Scholarship Committee's India based screening subcommittee under the chairpersonship of Dr. Jitendra Shah has been publishing about award of this scholarship every year since year 2000. Subcommittee invites, scrutinizes and recommends applications for awarding scholarships. It is a matter of great pleasure that the awarding of this scholarship was started in year 2001, VRG's death centenary year and 2600th birth year of Bhagvan Mahavir.. The following donors have contributed \$ 100 or more to this scholarship fund since last such information published in Jain Digest.

Patni Narendra J. & Suman Kew Gardens N.Y. \$ 100

Jain Center of America, New York (Dec.,02) \$ 2,000

Drs. Bharat & Kokila, Jericho, N.Y \$ 201

Jain Center of America, New York (July,03) \$ 2,000

After review of about 18 applications received from Dr. Jitendra B. Shah, Chairperson of Indiabased subcommittee for academic year 2002-03, 7 (seven) nonrefundable scholarships up to Rs. 15,000 were awarded to the students for their advanced studies, Ph.D. and M.Phil., in Jainism.

Pravin C. Shah, Chairperson

SAMANS TOUR USA

Saman Sthitpragya and Saman Shrutpragya left India on June 28 for a USA tour. At the JAINA convention in Cincinnati (OH) over 900 participants attended a lecture on stress management and anger management presented by Saman Shrutpragya. Preksha meditation and yoga classes also proved to be very popular. Samniji Charitrpragya and Samniji Sandhpragya also attended the convention.

The Samans presented discourses on Mahavira and on three-dimensional programs of Anuvrat, Preksha Meditation and Science of Living during their visits to Ashland (KY), Woodbridge (CT), Clarksville and Memphis (TN), and Long Island (NY). Topics of time management, family management, health management, karma management, Preksha meditation and yoga were addressed in a series of lectures attended by Jain and non-Jain public. The classes in English were held in parallel for the benefit of the youths. The concept of Jain Vishwa Bharati Preksha meditation is taught at Orlando, Houston and New Jersey centers in the USA, and at New Delhi, Ladhun, Rajsamand and Koba (Gujarat) centers in India. The Samans can be contacted at anuvrat7@yahoo.com.

Jaina Senior Citizen Committee

Jaina Senior Citizen Committee's aim was to collect various information regarding the different benefits, programs offered by the States and the Federal Government and how our Senior members can take the advantage of these programs, e.g. Social Security benefits, Medicare, Medicaid, Transportation, Housing benefits, advice on Estate planning, preparation of Living wills/ Trust, Long term Care and other social activities etc. We have obtained some information which we intend to make available to all who would require them.

We are also exploring the possibility of forming the Senior Citizen Association at bigger Jain Centers where there are a good number of our Senior members. The Association can organize the various programs at their Centers. We at Los Angeles are organizing various activities for the Seniors, like Bus trips to various Home Temples, other recreation Parks, musical programs, picnics, rangoli competition, religious pooja and other programs. Thus it helps the Seniors to have some entertainment and enjoy the life. We are still exploring to provide the transport to our Seniors to come to our Center regularly to participate in the religious, social activities. We are also exploring if Housing facilities be organized for the Senior members.

We would like to welcome any new ideas from any Jaina members. Please contact us if anyone would like to have any further information regarding Seniors benefits or organizing activities for the Senior members at their Centers.

Kantilal Shah, Chairperson.

JAIN NETWORK FORUM -

Jain meets Jains online Jain Network Forum is internet/web based program/database accustomed to your needs, your interests and your future plans. The online database consists of JNF candidates from Jaina 2001 and Jaina 2003 conventions, YJA conventions and many independently registered candidates. The continuously growing JNF database has more than 500 active profiles from USA and other countries. The online profile of each candidate consists of picture and key information about each candidate with easy to search functions to match your criteria.

One time membership fee of only USD \$30 provides access to JNF database forever. Please visit www.jaina.org and follow link of Jain network forum for registration form and other details. For more information please contact Sunil Kumar Jain at jnf_mis@hotmail.com

Sunil K. Jain, Chairperson

INTERFAITH EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

September 11 Interfaith Service for United Nations

The annual Interfaith Service of the Commitment to the Work of United Nations to mark the opening of the 58th session of the General assembly was held on September 11, 2003 at St. Bartholomew's Church in New York City. This year's service attended by 1500 people was in Celebration of the International Year of Freshwater and in remembrance of the UN Victims who died in Iraq. International Jain Sangh (IJS) of New Jersey co-sponsored the service. HH Amrender Muniji recited Jain Prayer. IJS distributed flyers on Nonviolence and Jainism and offered vegetarian snack items. Contact: Naresh Jain at njain52253@aol.com

World Fest 2003 in California

Jains from Southern California put up a Jain booth in WorldFest 2003 in Los Angeles. The volunteers served as Ambassadors of Jainism explaining its philosophy and message to hundreds of visitors from numerous backgrounds and walks of life. Free copies of Amar Salgia's booklet- Pure Freedom: The Jain Way of Self Reliance was also made available to visitors. The annual WorldFest event is a public celebration of vegetarianism and environmentalism. Contact Amar Salgia at asalgia@yahoo.com

Open House for Jainism

An Open House for Jainism to the Public was hosted by the Jain Center of Southern California in its Buena Park Temple on October 5th. The afternoon Welcome Program to share Jain experience with non-Jains included vegetarian snacks, panel discussion on Philosophy and Practices of Jainism. Contact Amar Salgia at asalgia@yahoo.com

Accommodation of Religious Communities in Schools and Hospitals:

A two day working retreat organized by the Interfaith Center of New York was held in November. Naresh Jain coordinated the participation of Jain community in this event attended by 95 delegates from ten religions representing numerous institutions. Deepal Jhaveri represented the Jain Center of New Jersey on the school panel. Dr. Mamta Shaha from the Jain Center of America- New York participated in the health care area.

The issues that surfaced in the session for accommodation in schools included diet, dress code, sex segregation, prayers at set times, and objections to the contents of the curriculum. Deepal Jhaveri in her panel presentation articulately described the connection between the diet of children and the quality of education and that the religion was in fact a part of the multi-culture.

The hospitals were more receptive to individual preferences and religious accommodations due to customer orientation, profit motive, patient's bill of rights, and the right to religious liberty.

The Jain delegates also had a special meeting with the interfaith center staff to discuss the possibilities of including Jainism oriented visual arts and performing arts programs. Contact Naresh Jain at njain52253@aol.com

Thanksgiving Interfaith Service:

An Interfaith Thanksgiving Program was held at the Unitarian Universal Meetinghouse in Lincroft, New Jersey on Sunday, November 23, 2003. Several religious organizations participated including Presbyterian Church, Baha'i faith, Hindu religion, Jainism and many others. A dance sponsored by the International Jain Sangh of New Jersey for 'World Unity' was performed by Divya Jain and her group. Contact Dr. Ari Jain at arijain@hotmail.com.

Conference of Religions for Peace:

Annual program of the Council of Presidents of the United States Conference of Religions for Peace will take place in Dec 03 in Boston. Arvind Vora, Chairman of JAINA Interfaith Committee and Chairman of the Long Island Multi-faith Forum will represent the President of JAINA in the discussions which will focus on the "Role of Religion in International Affairs for the Council of Presidents" and "What are the implications for Religion Given Current US Foreign Policy positions?" Artist Nancy Burson is working with the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council to include a large peace-focused artwork in the reconstructed World Trade Center area. Plan is to inscribe peace prayers of member traditions on the inside of this unique translucent public art project. JAINA will coordinate with the council to include Jain Peace Prayers in this WTC site remembered forever. Contact: Arvind Vora (631) 269-1167.

Season of Nonviolence at the United Nations, NY

A program entitled 'Season of Nonviolence' will be held in the United Nations in New York on **January 30, 2004** from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm. This pioneer event is being held on the anniversary day of the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi to highlight violence as the cause of his death and to promote the spirit of nonviolence. The program is co-sponsored by several major interfaith organizations and the International Jain Sangh (IJS) of New Jersey. **Registrations will be accepted up to January 10, 2004.** IJS will arrange for security clearance. If you are in New York area and wish to attend, contact Naresh Jain at njain52253@aol.com.

World religion Camp in Florida:

Asia Cultural Society will hold a World Religion Camp in February 2004 in Orlando, Florida. Jain Society of Central Florida will participate in this event and will also have a booth to display Jain materials. Contact Rajendra Mehta (407) 260-6459.

"Wheels of Hope"

(Asha Chakra) Program Report

JAINA's Donation of "Pace Makers" Saves Two (2) lives in India!

"...You have not only donated the machine but also donated joy and happiness to my family. For us you are not a man but an angel...The service you are providing is priceless...have no words to express my feelings on behalf of my granny"- Dhiraj Parsi, grandson of Dhanraji Sital 8/29.

Pace makers were donated to JAINA by **World Medical Relief, Detroit, MI** in July; were flown to India by Mukesh Doshi, Director of BIDADA Rehabilitation Center; patients from Bidada, Kutch were brought to K.E.M. Hospital, Bombay and Pace Makers were installed by Dr. P.G. Kerkar, Head of the Cardiology Department.

Other developments from "Wheels of Hope" Program in last two months are:

Container # 18 left Detroit, MI arriving India end of October; it is loaded with sophisticated, hi-tech state of art rehabilitation equipment for BIDADA's new 15,000 sq.ft. Rehabilitation and Physical Therapy center. Equipment is worth **\$250,000** all donated by World Medical Relief to JAINA.

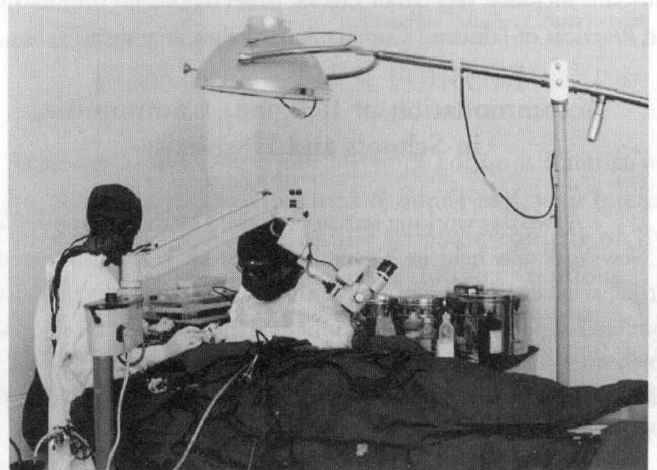
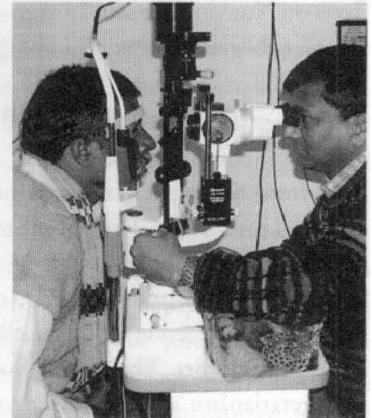
Container #19 left Toledo, Oh. Arriving India first week of November. This container has hospital supplies and equipment for **eight(8) institutions:**

- a) Upleta Hospital, Upleta
- b) Samanya Sadhana Kendra, Ahmedabad
- c) Bidada Sarvodaya Trust
- d) SMVA Trust, Bangalore
- e) Ram Mantra Mandir, Bhavanagar
- f) Vardhaman Nagar Clinic, Bhuj
- g) Simandahr Swami Aradhana Kendra, Gandhinagar
- h) Gandhi-Lincoln Hospital, Deesa

Some of the items are: Milk Powder Packets for 8,000 children, 3 Dental Chairs, 10 Dental Xray Machines, Digital Dental Xray Machine, Prosthetic & Orthotics for handicapped & Disabled, Xray Machine, Refrigerators for Blood and Urine Specimens

These supplies are scheduled to arrive at **seven(7) Medical Camps** in India that JAINA is supporting in Jan-Feb 2004.

With your financial support of \$100-\$200, this program can do more and more for poor & sick of India. *For more information, please contact Dr. Jaya & Ramesh Shah 440-442-4596 (jshah6138@aol.com)*



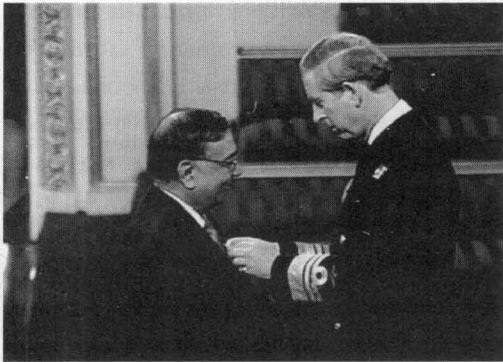
US CONGRESSMAN JOINS DIWALI CELEBRATIONS BY JAINS IN NEW JERSEY



US Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr., joined the children to celebrate Diwali organized by the International Jain Sangh in South River, New Jersey. Fifty-two children performing on stage on Saturday, November 8, 2003, shook hands and took pictures with the congressman. Members of several faiths and ethnic groups joined the festivities dedicated to the needy children of the nearby Asbury Park school. Artist from the Creations Dance Academy gave several performances, and an accomplished singer Shri Ghanshyam Joshi entertained the guests by his melodious voice in the evening program coordinated by Neena Jain (732) 906-0103

The attached picture shows the congressman Frank Pallone conversing with Dev Joshi of 88.7 FM radio program 'Bharat Darshan' along with children and guests.

Mr. Nemubhai Chandaria honoured for his services to the Jain Community



Mr Nemubhai Chandaria was awarded the OBE(Officer of the British Empire) in Her Majesty's June 2003 Birthday Honours List for his services to the Jain Community. Nemubhai is the Deputy Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Institute of Jainology and has been the primary driving force behind the IoJ activities.

From his early formative years, community service always appealed to him. He was appointed Joint Secretary of the Rotary Club of Addis Ababa, in 1964, in 1966 on moving to Asmara, he was appointed as International Director of the Rotary Club of Asmara. The charitable undertakings of the Rotary Club are well-known. Nemubhai provided enthusiasm and support to several of Club activities during his directorship.

He was also involved with the Haile Selassie Foundation whilst living in Ethiopia. The Foundation managed several charitable institutions including the School for the Blind and the Orphanage for Children

In 1988, he read an article in the Herald Tribune announcing the formation of the International Sacred Literature Trust (ISLT) with a mission to undertake translations of scriptures of various faiths into contemporary English. Jainism was not in the list of the translation work. Nemubhai contacted the President of the trust HRH Prince Philip, who responded positively.

Nemubhai's desire was to unite Jain sources and avoid duplication with only limited resources available from the community. The proposed activities of JSLT were merged with those of the Institute of Jainology (IOJ) whose objectives were very similar. IOJ represents all Jain sects world-wide and he became its International Co-ordinator. IoJ has undertaken a wide range of activities under the banner of 'The Jains'. A quick view of the projects at www.jainology.org will give an idea of the extent to which the cause of Jainism has been promoted. All of these projects bear the imprint of Nemubhai's foresight, meticulous planning and hard work.

Notable, amongst the projects is the publication of the Jain Declaration on Nature. It was for the first time, that all Jain sects worldwide were united and acted jointly when they presented the declaration to HRH Prince Philip at Buckingham Palace. IOJ as a result joined the family of WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) and Jainism thus became the eighth recognised faith of the World.

The first Jain scripture to be translated jointly under the ISLT mission was the *Tattvartha Sutra – That Which Is*, by Dr Nathmal Tatia, published by Harper Collins and launched by HRH Prince Philip in July, 1995. All the Jain sects participated in the translation of these scriptures. On the occasion of the celebration of the 26th Birth Centenary of Bhagwan Mahavir, the Prime Minister of India, Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee, conferred *Jain Ratna* award on Nemubhai appreciation of his services to the Jain community

This award in the Queen's Birthday Honours List is absolutely well deserved and the IoJ can take justifiable pride in having him as the Deputy Chairman of its Board of Trustees.

TAPÄCHÄR

The Code Of Austerities

Manubhai Doshi, Chicago, IL

*Bārasavihammi Vi Tave Sabbhintar-Bāhire Kusal-Ditthe
Agilāi Anājivi Nāyavvo So Tavāyāro
Panchächār Sutra*

*External and internal austerities laid down by the omniscient
Lords are of twelve types; earnest observance thereof, without expecting
any return, is known as the code of austerities.*

In the first three chapters we have discussed knowledge, perception and conduct. In this chapter we intend to consider austerity, which is popularly known as Tap. Jain tradition lays considerable emphasis on observance of Tap. Really speaking, Tap is a part of Chāritra. However, in view of its special importance in spiritual pursuit it is treated as a separate part of spiritual code and is termed as Tapächār. Let us now examine its significance in spiritual pursuit.

Since the time immemorial, the worldly soul has been found under the impact of Karma. Consequently, it has been entangled in an apparently unending cycle of births and deaths. It can be liberated from that cycle by eradicating the impact of Karma. That is known as Nirjarā. It is of two types. One is Akām Nirjarā, which automatically takes place by bearing the consequences of old Karma. During such Nirjarā, however, the person happens to react to the given situation with craving or aversion. That Nirjarā therefore leads to acquisition of new Karma and as such cannot lead to liberation. The other one is Sakām Nirjarā, which can be achieved with the purpose of gaining liberation. That does not lead to new Karma. One of the ways to achieve such Nirjarā is to resort to austerities. Upvās is the most well known mode of the austerities. Since it is significantly helpful in achieving Nirjarā, Jainism exhorts its followers to observe Upvās to the utmost extent.

The true meaning of Upvās has, however, been forgotten and it happens to be equated with fasting, which simply amounts to going without food. All the benefits accruing from undertaking true Upvās are wrongly supposed to come forth from fasting. Jains are therefore known for fasting on a scale inconceivable to others. During Paryusana days, in particular, we come across many Jains observing fasts for all the eight days. There are also some, who observe longer fasts extending to months.

It is hardly remembered that observance of austerities is a means, not the end. In order to avoid misconception of the term, Jainism has laid down the concept of Tap or the austerity in great details. Austerities have been actually conceived of the physical and mental exercises that can be helpful in achieving Nirjarā. The physical exercises are termed as external or Brāhya Tap and mental ones as internal or Abhyantar Tap. Since internal austerities are concerned with inner aspects, it would be evident that they are meant for spiritual development. External austerities, on the other hand, are useful to the extent they are helpful in undertaking the internal ones. Both these categories of Tap are divided into six sub-categories each. There are thus twelve types of Tap in all. Let us examine them under two broad headings.

A: External or Brāhya Tap

Panchächār Sutra lays down external austerities as under.

*Anasan-Moonoariyā Vitti-Sankhevanam Rasachchāo
Kāy-Kilesa Sanlinayā Ya Bajzo Tavo Hoi*

It means that fasting, eating less, curtailing the desires, avoiding the tastes, facing physical hardships and occupying restricted space constitute the external austerities. Let us consider them one after another.

1) Anashan: This is the first category of Tap. Anashan means to eat and Anashan means not to eat which is known as fasting. Such fasting is usually termed as Upvās. As mentioned above, that is misleading, because Upvās has a totally different connotation. Upvās means staying close to the soul. When a person stays so tuned to the nature of soul, he does not care for the body or other physical aspects like appetite etc. So refraining from food can be a consequence of Upvās, not an essential part of it. Instead of using the term Upvās, the seers have therefore specifically used the term Anashan for this category of external restraint. Fasting is of course useful, because the spiritual pursuit may entail going without food. The practice of fasting would therefore be helpful in retaining the peace of mind under such adverse circumstances.

2) Unoariā or Unodari: This means eating less than what is needed for satisfying the appetite. Normally, people tend to fill the belly, when they eat. It is, however, possible that a spiritual aspirant may sometime not get enough to eat. Practicing this austerity would

enable him to be prepared to face such eventuality. He can thus stay without being perturbed when he does not get enough food. This austerity has a hygienic consideration too. A recent research has shown that eating less than the appetite is conducive to health and can even increase the longevity.

3) Vittisankhevanam or Vrittisankshep: This means curtailing the tendency to expand one's requirements. Human beings have *the tendency to acquire as many things as possible, so that they can be used to satisfy the current or future needs*. Gaining too many things, however, does not necessarily make one happy. Happiness is a function of mind and can be attained by contentment. By observing this austerity, one can learn to stay contented with the minimum requirements.

4) Rasachchāo or Rastyāg. This means giving up attachment for tastes. The tongue always looks for tastes. Our attention therefore stays towards different types of tasty foods and drinks. This turns out to be more or less an insatiable craze. Such hankering for tastes does not allow the peace of mind. Some brake has to be applied to it. This austerity is laid down with that end in view. Āyambil Vrat is specially devised for that purpose.

5) Kāyakilesa or Kāyāklesh: This literally means bearing physical affliction. In practice, it amounts to courting physical hardships. During spiritual pursuit, one comes across many hardships. If he is not accustomed to bear the same, he cannot maintain peace and no spiritual benefit can come forth in absence of the peace of mind. It is therefore necessary that the aspirant is used to bearing reasonable level of hardships and physical discomforts.

6) Sanlinayā or Sanlinatā: This is also referred to as Viviktashayyāsan. It means staying in a forlorn place and occupying the minimum space. Normal human tendency is to gain more and more space to lead a comfortable life. The purpose of this austerity is to curtail that tendency and to feel comfortable within a restricted area. The term can also mean staying tuned. Maintaining alertness can thus come within the purview of this restraint.

It would be evident that the purpose of external austerities is to equip the aspirants to face hardships that they may come across during spiritual pursuit. That can enable them to observe peace and tranquillity of mind even in adverse circumstances. Now let us turn to the internal austerities, each of which is devised to lead to liberation.

B: Internal or Abyantar Tap

Panchāchār Sutra lays down internal austerities as under.

***Pāyachchhittam Vīnao Veyavachcham Tahev Sajžāo
Jhanam Ussaggo Vi A Abbhintaraō Tavo Hoi***

It means that repentance, modesty, selfless service, study of Self, meditation and staying beyond the physical aspects are the internal austerities. Let us consider them one by one.

1) Pāyachchhittam or Prāyashchit: This means atonement or repentance. During our life, we happen to indulge in wrong and undesirable physical activities and evil tendencies. This may be due to addiction, weakness of mind, pitfalls or shortsightedness. A spiritual aspirant has to stay constantly aware of such indulgences. Whenever he notices any thing wrong on his part, he should repent and atone for the same. His sense of remorse should be strong enough to avert the recurrence of such indulgence. If this is undertaken with sincerity, one can surely reach the state of perfection sooner or later.

2) Vinay: This means modesty on one's own part and respect for others. Respect has to be appropriate and may even take the form of worship for the deserving entities. This would help the aspirant to proceed towards spiritual development. For instance, if one has regard for his preceptor, he would not undertake any activity without seeking the guidance from him. That would automatically keep him away from indulging in wrong or undesirable activity. He would also feel inclined to develop the attributes of the deserving entities and that can lead him towards the state of perfection.

3) Veyāvachcham or Vaiyāvṛutya: This means selfless service. A spiritual aspirant should realize that all the living beings have the same type of soul. He should therefore feel a sense of amity and fraternity for everyone. He would then be willing to serve others without expecting anything in return. This sense of selfless service would not arise, unless one has developed a sense of dedication to the cause of serving. Such servicing can result in elimination of arrogance and lead towards modesty. The utter degree of such modesty can bring forth the faultlessness.

4) Sajžāo or Swādhyāy: Literally, this means study of oneself. It takes two forms. One is to get conscious of one's own faults and limitations with a view to avoid the same. The other is to understand the nature of true Self. The aspirant learns that the soul is inherently pure, enlightened, flawless and is imbibed with infinite knowledge, perception and bliss. He would therefore strive to manifest those attributes and the total manifestation amounts to the liberation.

5) Jhānam or Dhyān: This normally means meditation. Jain tradition, however, treats it as attentiveness and specifies four types of Dhyān known as Ārtadhyān, Raudradhyān, Dharmadhyān and Shukladhyān. The first two categories are unwholesome and do not form part of this austerity. The remaining two are wholesome and are akin to meditation. Dharmadhyān means contemplating about the spiritual aspects so as to get rid of the defilement. Shukladhyān denotes absorption within the nature of soul. When one attains that state, he is not far away from liberation.

6) Ussaggo or Kāyotsarga: Literally this means giving up the body. It actually denotes giving up all the physical as well as mental activities and staying absorbed in the true nature of soul. When such absorption is complete and remains uninterrupted, it is called liberation.

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VIRYÄCHÄR

The Code Of Exercising Vigor

*Anigoohia-Bal-Virio Parakkamai Jo Jahuttamäutto
Junjai A Jahäthämam Näyavvo Viriäyaro*

Panchächär Sutra

When one applies his unrestricted capacity and vigor for practicing the laid down spiritual code, it is known as Viryächär or the code of exercising vigor.

It was mentioned earlier that Jain spiritual code consists of five aspects. Of these five, we have discussed Jnänächär, Darshanächär, Chäriträchär and Tapächär. After properly understanding these four aspects, one needs to exercise his energy for putting them into practice. This has to be done vigorously and enthusiastically without any way restricting the energy. Such practicing is known as Viryächär, the code of exercising vigor. As a matter of fact, Viryächär also is a part of Chäriträchär. In view of its importance, however, Jain tradition treats it as a separate part of the code.

For undertaking any activity, one has to exercise vigor. That applies to the worldly aspects as well as to spiritual ones. This is obvious and well known to every one. The question would therefore arise why do we need a code for something that is so obvious? The reply is simple. All of us are aware that exercising vigor is necessary for gaining anything. How many people, however, actually exercise it appropriately? While undertaking any activity, most of the people are overcome by indolence. They are frequently led by the tendency to indulge in lethargy, sluggishness etc. For instance, a student might be aware that for securing admission to the course that he aspires, he needs to gain a high score. He would also be aware that if he properly exerts, he can gain the required score. But somehow, he may be led away by lethargy and would not put in the required amount of work. Thereby, he may miss the chance of getting admission to the course.

Incidents of losing opportunities on account of lethargy occur in all walks of life. Such lethargy usually arises out of indolence, laziness, overindulgence etc. Suppose a person might have to appear for an interview for getting a job. He may, however, not do enough home work and may therefore fail to get the job; one may ignore the maintenance of his car and may undertake a journey during which the car may get stuck and he fails to go to the destination; one may stay lustful and thereby ignore the work which he is supposed to do; one may not remain careful enough about his income and expenditure, whereby he may fail to pay the mortgage dues and may consequently face a foreclosure.

Doing anything on time needs vigilance and motivation. But there is no motivation comparable to the self-motivation. Only

that type of motivation is helpful in correctly undertaking and successfully finishing any work. Doing anything efficiently and appropriately amounts to Yog. Geeta therefore states: Yogah Karmasu Kaushalam. It means that efficiency in doing anything is Yog. People in the West are attracted towards the physical exercises that are known as Yoga exercises. Such exercises are really meant to equip an aspirant to undertake the required activity efficiently. If one does not gain the efficiency or fails to exercise it, he misses the real purpose of undertaking Yoga.

If a high degree of self-motivation is required for worldly success, a far higher degree is necessitated for spiritual purposes. The scriptures mention that Mithyätva (the wrong perception), Avirati (absence of restraints), Kashäy (defilement), Pramäd (indolence) and Yog (unduly exercising of physical, verbal and mental capabilities) are the main factors that inhibit the spiritual growth. Detailed analysis of these factors would indicate that laxity, laziness and lethargy, which are the principal constituents of indolence, are inherent in those factors. Religion therefore emphasizes that the spiritual aspirant should undertake every activity efficiently and without any way indulging in indolence.

Jainism lays down the following five major types of indolence, viz. i) Vishay, which means indulgence in sensuous objects like sound, sight, smell, taste and touch, ii) Kashäy, meaning the defilement pertaining to anger, arrogance, deception and greed, iii) Vikathä meaning unnecessary talks pertaining to politics, nation, food and sex, iv) Nidrä, meaning excessive sleep and v) Pranay meaning too much attachment. These aspects tend the people to remain indolent and thereby lead them away from seeking the well being of soul. Every aspirant is therefore required to avoid these types of indolence and to practice the spiritual code with vigor and enthusiasm. The verse from the Panchächär Sutra, quoted at the top of this chapter, therefore states that the spiritual aspirant needs to practice the code vigorously and without limiting or restraining his energy and capability.

This leads us to a controversial aspect. It is contended that Jainism being Karma-oriented, it believes in the inexorable law of Karma. If the living beings get different types of situations as the result of their Karma, there would be no escape for them but to bear the consequences of their Karma. Jainism is thus viewed as endorsing inactivity and discouraging the energetic effort. How can we reconcile that view with the description of Viryächär? This question is closely associated with the controversy between Prärabdha and Purushärtha or destiny vs. endeavor. let us therefore consider it here.

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Unity in Diversity

Kalpesh Shah,

Human Rights, just as everything else, is a double-edged sword. On one edge lies greater access to democracy and on the other lies oppressive tyranny. Along with this, there is a greater long-standing dilemma of Universal Human Rights versus cultural relativity. It can be noted that this dilemma can essentially be reduced to the basic question of whether human behavior is based on nature or nurture- universally homogeneous or culturally heterogeneous. Yet globally speaking, Human Rights (not human privileges) are the natural-born rights of all humans, universally regardless of cultural diversity. Nevertheless, the diversity among all humans in their ideology, philosophy, culture, lifestyle and functional religion is an involuntary variation among us. Choosing one over the other has its own consequences. While extreme universal Human Rights result in universal rigid hierarchical tyranny, radical relativism allows unchecked violations of our basic Human Rights. Yet it is this universal diversity that allows us to unite while simultaneously remain true to our identity. Thus, the long-standing dilemma can actually be channeled as a solution by accepting Universal Human Rights yet applying them relatively.

UNIVERSALITY

Human rights (not Human privileges) are the natural-born rights of all humans, regardless of cultural diversity. Human Rights, the very basic fundamental minimal rights, are essentially yours simply because we are human beings. One [every Human Right] for all [humans] and all [Human Rights] for one [human]. The Human Rights are based on an understanding of human dignity that sees each person as an equal and a valuable human being. For example, every human is inherited with the Human Right to marry and found a family. (Donnelly, 49-50) Pollis and Schwab argue all societies have had and continue to human rights motions and that all societies cross-culturally and historically manifest conceptions of Human Rights. Others have contested that the concept of Human Rights can be traced back to the origin of human race. (Donnelly, 49)

The universal nature of Human Rights is literally written into the title of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. From June 1993, the Vienna Declaration reconfirms, "All human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated." (Sane, 17) They are accepted in the International Covenant of Economic, Social Cultural Rights, and the Article 27 of International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights addressing ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities. (Murray and Wheatley,

218) Further, the United Nations General Assembly, a uniquely representative body, is authorized to address and advance the protection and promotion of Human Rights. As such, it's an excellent indicator of international consensus on Human Rights. All Member States of the UN have a legal obligation to promote and protect Human Rights, regardless of particular cultural views.

The Vienna Declaration states the obligation of all Member States in its very first paragraph. The Universal Nature of Human Rights is beyond question and the universal respect (neither selective nor respective) and protection of all Human Rights and fundamental freedoms is applicable to all humans. Warren Christopher, U.S. Department of State Dispatch, agrees to the Vienna Declaration as the first responsibility of all Governments. He further states, "the condition of Human Rights in a country is a good measure of the quality of its government, and the free exercise of Human Rights is the best safeguard against the abuse of national power." (Sane, 19) Thus, universally, individuals are capable of holding their human rights and exercising them against their state in cases of Human Rights violations.

DIVERSITY

Nevertheless, every human being has the right to culture, including the right to enjoy and develop cultural life and identity. The diversity in culture, ideology, philosophy and functional religion is an involuntary variation. This is actually constituted and protected by universal human rights institutions, for example, the International Bill of Rights, the International Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Declaration of Race and Racial Prejudice, the Declarations on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religions or Belief, the Right of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic Religious and Linguistic Minorities, and the list is endless. The Universal Declaration on the Right to Development states, in Article 18 and 19, the right to recognition before the law and to nationality, in Article 27, it states the right to participate in the cultural life of the community. (Donnelly, 71) In Article 27 of International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights protects rights of ethnic, religious, or linguistic minorities. (Murray and Wheatley, 20)

As all just laws- international or domestic- universal Human Rights neither harbor nor harm, neither represent nor orient, towards on particular culture. Universal Human Rights, under

any circumstances, do not impose one cultural standard yet rather one legal standard of minimum protection. This standard, necessary of human dignity, was adopted through the UN and represents the hard-won community and not the cultural imperialism of the mightiest region or tradition. It protects the basic fundamental minimum standards of human dignity allowing maximum room of cultural identity and variations without violating others' same rights. This way everyone wins.

The Vienna Declaration provided explicit consideration of culture in Human Rights promotion and protection by stating, "the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind." As Jack Donnelly points out, "The [universal] Declaration does list some rights that are best viewed as an "interpretation," subject to much greater cultural relativity. For example, the right of free and full consent of spouses reflects a specific cultural interpretation of marriage that is of relatively recent origin and by no means universal today." (Donnelly, 123) The flexibility of Human Rights, to be relevant to diverse cultures, are facilitated by the stable minimum standards and the incorporated cultural rights in universal Human Rights. In other words, the actual interpretation and application on a cultural level of these fundamental universal rights is most required taking in consideration the culturally diverse factors and life style of its nationals. For instance, although all humans have a right to marry and found a family, restricting couple to only one child in China is a legitimate legislation. Not allowing a culturally relative application of Human Rights endangers public safety in an extremely high population density environment constrained with dangerously limited resource most minimum to human survival.

Universality while Diversity

Is there not room, ethical moral, and adjustment for alliance among universal Human Rights and traditional cultures? Or do we lack the intellectual rational to incorporate both? Drawing on compatible practices and common values from diverse cultures would actually enhance and promote Human Rights protection on a larger level. Particular Human Rights are, as Gallie notes, "essentially contested concepts," in which there's a large general consensus of meaning, simultaneous to complex irresolvable conflict of interpretations. Here, culture provided a bow-worthy/plausible and defensible mechanism for determining interpretations.

Donnelly offers this example; "There are significant direct costs, as well as indirect costs, such as operation a legal system in accord with principles of due process, and protecting citizens against arbitrary or inhumane and degrading treatment by officials of the state." (Donnelly, 117) Further he analyzes the right to work which is almost universally accepted yet might be interpreted as right to seek employment, right to be compensated for employment or

even unemployment or right to work with one's interest. This specificity will be absent from Human Rights lists or even those that do list it. Also, specifying the length and the amount of unemployment benefits, or the extent of vocational training results in large scale variations and can't possibly be universally applicable. Thus, traditional cultures should be approached and recognized as partners to promote greater respect for and observance of Human Rights.

Drawing on compatible practices and common values from traditional culture would enhance and advance Human Rights promotion and protection. This approach not only encourages greater tolerance, mutual respect and understanding, but also fosters more effective international cooperation for Human Rights. Rather than limit Human Rights to suit a given culture, why not draw on traditional cultural values to reinforce the application and relevance of universal Human Rights? Thus indigenous pluralism or universal Human Rights in culturally diverse context is not an obstacle yet a fortification of Human Rights.

The defense for cultural relativism frequently includes or leads to the assertion that traditional cultures are sufficient to protect human dignity, and therefore universal Human Rights are unnecessary. Furthermore, the refutation continues, universal Human Rights can be intrusive and disruptive to traditional protection of human life, liberty and security. (Kausikan, 122) In response, when traditional cultures do effectively provide such protection, then human rights by definition would be compatible, posing no threat to the traditional culture. As such, the traditional culture can better absorb and apply Human Rights, and the governing state should be in a better position not only to ratify, but also to effectively and fully implement the international standards. To refute the second objection that Human Rights can be substituted by traditions, it is hardly the case. "No government has yet shown how the distinct values of its culture justify torture, discrimination or so called disappearances," neither do they reply to the crises of nationals demanding the respect of their rights. (Sane, 19)

Traditional culture is a cultural context in which Human Rights must be established, integrated, promoted, and protected. Human Rights must be approached in a way that is meaningful and relevant in diverse cultural contexts since the supportive membership of global nations is its most generous strength. Thus it is not only feasible yet a necessity to view the universal Human Rights in the light of cultural diversity. Radical relativism views human values, far from being universal, vary a great deal according to different cultural perspectives. Some would apply this relativity to the promotion, protection, interpretation and application of Human Rights that could be interpreted differently within different cultural, ethnic and religious traditions. If cultural traditions alone govern state compliances to international standards, then widespread disregard, abuse and violations of Human Rights would be given legitimacy. On the other edge, extreme universality of

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human rights and their complete global application in a diverse setting man sit is the ultimate law not the land but of all the lands. This raises less representation and further distances from humans, the very foundations of Human Rights. This would be the leading step toward a global tyranny.

The right path is smack in the middle. Vulnerability to suffrage, pain, harm shared by all humans unites us to the requirement of universal Human Rights. Yet the diversity among us in race, sex, culture, ideology, philosophy, religion, needs a relative aid from protecting. It is this universal diversity which allows us to unite, while simultaneously remain true to our identity. We are not faced with a choice between relativism and universal Human Rights. We don't have to choose between having the cake and eating the pie. As Donnelly best puts it, "Rather we need to combine the universality of Human Rights and their particularity, and relativity," for unity among diversity.

Reference:

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Murray and Wheatley, "Groups and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights"

Sane, Pierre. "Human Rights are Universal" in *Human Rights: Opposing Viewpoints* (San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 1988)

Kausikan, Bilahari. "Asian versus "Universal" Human Rights"

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Prārabdha or destiny is usually seen as resulting from Karma, while Purushārtha is viewed as the endeavor to overcome such destiny. Thus, Prārabdha and Purushārtha apparently seem to be contradicting each other. Really speaking, both of them are only different facets of operative part of Karma. Prārabdha denotes the consequence of Poorva or earlier Karma, while Purushārtha represents the Vartamān or present Karma. While describing the nature of Karma, Jainism does emphasize that if the bondage of an earlier Karma is not very strong, its impact can be modified by undertaking the opposite type of Karma. Thus Vartamān Karma can have an edge over Poorva Karma.

Viryāchār asks us to undertake intensive Vartamān Karma for overcoming the impact of Jnānavarāniya, Darshanāvarāniya, Mohaniya and Antarāy Karmas, acquired earlier. One would be successful in overcoming the same to the extent the bondage of earlier Karma is not too strong. There is therefore no scope to contend that we are helpless victims of the earlier Karma. Viryāchār lays down that one should try his best to gain right knowledge, right conviction and right conduct. That applies to observance of austerities as well. Thus all the aspects of spiritual code need to be observed with the utmost vigor. And, exercising of vigor is itself Purushārtha.

(continued from Page 17)

These twelve austerities need to be taken in the ascending order. It means that each of them should be considered as superior to the earlier one. In other words, fasting stands at the lowest level and Kāyotsarga at the highest level. Prima facie this may seem intriguing, because how can eating less be considered higher than fasting? The reply is that the austerities are conceived of in the form of restraining the mind. When one decides to observe fast, he makes up in his mind not to eat. Unodari, however, requires to refrain from taking additional food while eating. It is easy to decide not to eat, but it is really tough to stop eating before the appetite is satisfied. Since Unodari thus requires a greater level of mental restraint, it is considered higher than fasting.

It would be clear from the above description that undertaking internal austerities amounts to observing Upvās. As stated earlier, the concept of Upvās is grossly misunderstood. The term denotes remaining tuned to the true nature of the soul. If a person can stay so tuned, he would have no time to care for the physical and other worldly aspects. Akām Nirjarā can thus be easily achieved by such Upvās. Karma cannot withstand the impact of the force inherent in staying so tuned and would give way. Lord Umāswāti has therefore rightly stated: Tapasā Nirjarā Cha. It means that Nirjarā can be achieved by Tap. This conveys observance of internal restraints and to resort to external ones as means for effectively observing the internal austerities.

REGIONAL NEWS....

SOUTHEAST

Surendra Shah, Regional Editor

ORLANDO, FLORIDA:

Jain Society of Central Florida, Orlando, FL observed Paryushan Parva, Das Laxna, Samniji's lectures and Sapna Darshan took place on Aug. 30th. Over 150 people participated in it. About 30,000 dollars were collected for the temple project. The temple project is almost finished and it should be ready for prathista by June next year. Samvatsari Pratikramans were held. During Parsuyan there was one member with 21 Upvas, 2 - 12 Upvas, 15 Atthais and other tasyas among adults and children. Parnas were held in Orlando, Merritt Island, Daytona Beach and Tallahassee. Tapasvis' bahuman was hosted in Orlando and Tallahassee.

During the year we had Shri Dhirajlal Pandit, Smt. Sunandaben Vora and Smt. Tarlaben Doshi, Jain Scholars from India and continued bi-weekly swadhayay by Samnijis.

ATLANTA, GA

Paryushan Parva was celebrated with one of the largest participations from the community. The parva was celebrated in presence of Sunandaben Vora. Sunandaben has written several easy to follow and lucid books on Jain philosophy. Sunandaben gave discourses on Kalpasutra. With her inspiration, Samuh Aarati (Group Aarati) was performed for the first time by Atlanta Jain Sangh. During Mahavir Jayanti, over \$300,000 was pledged for the Derasar. A large number of members, young and adult performed Tapashcharya ranging from 15 day fasts, Atthais, four and three day fasts to Eksānas. At the end of parva over 200 members participated in sangh parnas.

Soon after paryusana, the sangh was blessed by Munishri Roopchandji who gave discourses in Hindi on Das Laxana. Then Pandit Dhirubhai Mehta explained, with his practical illustrations, the variety of karmas.

MIDWEST

Manu Doshi,, Regional Editor

CHICAGO, IL

The religious classes for children as well as adults are held on the third Sunday of every month. The attendance is maintained at a very high level. Gujarati language and meditation classes are held every 2nd Sunday and Yoga classes are held every Monday and Wednesday. Ārati is performed everyday in the evening at 8.00 P.M.

On the occasion of Paryushan Parva Shraman Shrutprajnaji gave discourses in Gujarati. His discourses were very interesting and the people thronged to listen to him. His colleague Shraman Schitaprajnaji gave talks to the children in English. Dr. Shantibhai Patel also gave discourses on subjects pertaining to Shrimad Rajchandra. Evening Bhāvanās were performed by Khelaiya group of Mumbai. The people enjoyed them as well.

The Swapna Darshan was organized in the presence of about 2000 people. They participated in Gheeboli. The society collected about \$ 60,000.

Many people observed austerities on that occasion. Two persons observed Varshi Tap and one of them also observed fasts during all the Paryushan days. One person observed fast for 13 days, three for 11 days, one for 10 days and one for 9 days. In addition, 63 people observed for 8 days and 10 of them were youngsters. Moreover, 65 youngsters, including of some very young children,

observed different types of austerities like Attham (fasting for three days) etc. Paramātma Prakāsh Bharrill gave discourses on all the 10 days on Dashlaxanā Parva.

Ātmasiddhi anniversary and Laghurajswami's birth day were organized on October 12. More than 100 people enthusiastically participated therein.

On the occasion of Lord Mahavir's Nirvān day, Nirvān Ladu was offered in the early morning on October 25.

On the occasion of Gujarati new year, Snātra Poojā was organized in the morning, group Ashtaparakāri Poojān in the afternoon and Bhāvanā in the evening on October 26. During Ashtapakāri Poojan the meaning of each stanza was explained to the participants in English as well as in Gujarati.

50th anniversary of Brahmachārijee and Shrimad Rajchandra's 135th birth day were celebrated in November.

The biennial election for the office bearers of the Society was held on Nov 23. The names of the office bearers for the years 2004 and 2005 are as under.

Board of Trustees: Jyotindra Doshi, Narendra Khandwala, Dr. Devendra (D.U.) Shah, Samprati Shah and Urmila Talsania

Executive Committee members

President: Arvind Shah

Vice president: Bhanu Shah

Secretary: Atul Shah

Treasurer: Girish Shah

Joint Treasurer: Nilesh Shah

Education Secretary: Dr. Mukesh Doshi

Membership Secretary: Kushalraj Singavi

Youth Secretary: Nirav Shah

Food Secretary: Hitesh Shah

REGIONAL NEWS....

DETROIT

Paryushan Parva was celebrated in the presence of Shri Chitrabhanuji. Supan ceremony was organized on August 30th. A practicing Sāmāyik in English for youth was scheduled and about 60 persons participated therein. During the Parva 32 people observed Atthāi, of which 7 were youths.

During Oli, 20 people observed Ayambils on all the days and 70 people observed it on Oct 5th, which was followed by Navpad Poojan. The day was also celebrated as Ahinsā day.

Swādhyāy of Taralāben Doshi was conducted from October 5th to 9th during which she gave talks regarding importance of Āgams.

Diwali was celebrated with Snātra Poojan, Gautamswāmi Jāp (Chanting) and Rās Garabā. New year was celebrated with ceremonial door opening, collective Chaitya Vandan, and Snātra Poojan.

Dev Vandan was performed on October 29th on the occasion of Jnān Panchami, Chaumāsi Pratikraman on November 7th, Patdarshan on November 8th and annual find raising dinner on November 15th.

Names of new Executive Committee and Board of Trustees are as under.

President: Niranjan Humbad

Vice president: Shashiben Bapna

Secretary: Kekin Sheth

Financial Officers: Manish Zaveri

Publication Officer: Vijay Shah

Trustees: Pradeep Modi (Chair person), Shailesh Trivedi (Vice chair person), Ashaben Jain, Kalpanaben Shah, and Suresh Shah

SOUTHWEST

Jadavji Kenia, Regional Editor

HOUSTON, TX

Jain Society of Houston honoured the Tapasvis who had done significant Tapasya during the Paryushan days and this year **Mrs. Rupaben Mehta was recognized and appreciated for 45 days of Upvas.** We believe this may be the first time anybody has undertaken such a gigantic Tapasya in North America. She also accomplished a feat of a Mas-khaman last year. We also honored our volunteers without whose tireless hard work and devotion our Center really could not function.

Our Diwali program started with Ghantakaran Jaap on Oct. 24 and Diwali Jaap on Oct. 25. We celebrated Diwali with a grand function on Oct. 26. The program started with a discourse from Samaniji followed by an excellent religious cultural program by the Pathshala students culminating with the Sangh Jaman. We are very fortunate to have the presence of Samani Madhurpragyaji and Samani Parimalpragyaji in Houston and we avail of their presence with discourses every Sunday morning.

We also celebrated the 8th Anniversary of our Temple with Snatra Pooja, Adhar Abhishek of the idols and the flag hoisting ceremony. Shri Mulchandbhai from Philadelphia performed the Adhar Abhishek and did an excellent job of explaining the meaning behind all the rituals.

One of the shining stars of our programs is our Pathshala Program with over 150 students attending six different classes for different age groups.

For more information about our activities please contact JSH President Shanti Gala at 281-398-7402 or Navin Shah, JAINA Director at 281-565-9780 or by e-mail at navinrshah@yahoo.com.

DALLAS, TX

Jain Society of North Texas celebrated Diwali with Mahavir Nirvan Pooja followed by children's program. Young children performed two dances and a skit on vegetarianism. Children ages 9-13 presented a program titled "401K Plan for This Life and Beyond" contrasting between a traditional investment club and people doing Swadhyay and doing something for their soul's uplift. The older group presented a Jainpardy or a jeopardy game around Jain topics. The meeting was concluded with Aartis and Sangh Jaman.

YJA Southwest Regional Conference scheduled in Dallas during the Thanksgiving weekend was postponed and will be rescheduled during a long weekend in January.

JSNT contact is our current president Bhal Daulat at 214-824-1953, email: thewhiterocker@yahoo.com. JSNT website is www.dfwjains.org.

PHOENIX, AZ

During the last quarter Jain Center of Greater Phoenix celebrated Diwali Puja and Guru Jayanti. Diwali Puja function was introduced last year and all members liked it and requested its continuation. Eight-Dravya pooja was performed by approximately 40 families. A few members did first time at our center, Bhagwan's Abhishek. About 175 people attended the celebration.

Guru Jayanti program started with Stavans, short messages from Pathshala children, speech on the importance of Guru, and recitation of Atma-Siddhi. Program ended with Aarti and Mangal divo. Pathshala children dressed up and gave short messages as some well-known people. For example, Sunny Shah dressed up as Mahatma Gandhi and Priti Shah as Mother Teresa among many other children.

REGIONAL NEWS....

Attendance at our Sunday Pathshala is growing with the increase in Jain population in the Metro Phoenix area. For information, please contact Mahendra Shah (President, JCGP) at 602-493-9745 or email: jain_phoenix@hotmail.com.

TULSA, OK

We are coming closer and closer to fulfill our long awaited dream of a new Derashar/Jain center. We have received our Ghabhara shipment from India. Assembly work is in progress and we are hoping to have a Pratishtha within 6-8 months. We, of course, need support from everyone.

We were blessed by Shree Tarlaben Doshi with her Jinvani in September 2003. During the Diwali celebration we had well attended Ghantrakaran Mahavir puja on Kali Chaudash and the Diwali Snatra puja the next day. On New Year's Day we had Manglik and Bhaktamar sutra.

For more information about The Tulsa Jain Sangh, please contact Kanti Shah at (918) 369-3163 or email kanaru@aol.com.

CANADA

Dr. Mahendra Mehta, Regional Editor

TORONTO, ONTARIO

Diwali was celebrated at Jain Centre with lighting of 'Diva' or 'Deep' in a "Light it Up" program attended by large number of our members. The entertainment program was put together by Ms. Puja Shah, who put in lot of hours to train the young performers to give their best.

The evening program of dinner and entertainment was organized at newly built impressive Pearson Convention Centre

where over 1,150 members attended the celebration. One of the highlight of this year's Diwali Celebration was Pathshala students' presentation of a play based on the tenth lecture from Utterdhyayana Sutra. 'The Leaf of Tree' covered the time period just before and after Bhagwan Mahavir's Moksha.

Level I students participated as Lotus and Deepaks. Level II and III students took the role of king and queen, sadhu and sadhvi, shravak and shravika and merchants and scholars who came to listen to Bhagwan Mahavir's discourses.

Level III and IV students participated as actors and narrators. As usual, the last words of Bhagwan Mahavir to Gandhar Gautam always bring a surge of emotions in everyone present, amply evidenced by absence of a single dry eye in the audience. The play highlighted why we celebrate Diwali.

The Daslaxana Parva was celebrated for ten days with Dhoop Dasmi, Anant Chaturdasi and concluding with Kshamavani, a day of Universal Forgiveness

Ms. Indu Jain gave discourses at the Jain Centre. Similarly daily puja, abhishek, arti, bhajan & lectures by Dr. Vastupal Parikh and Panditji Anantram took place at Sri Jain Mandir, 247 Parklawn Avenue, Etobicoke.

Shree 108 Pragat Prabhavi Shree Parshvnath Abhishek Poojan: The Poojan was performed by New Jersey Jain Sangh members numbering around 100 + at the Jain Centre. It was well attended and many members participated with great enthusiasm.

Aaymbil Ori was conducted at Jain Centre on Oct. 4th after Snatra Pooja and over 50 'tapasvis' participated in the lunch.

18th Chaitya Paripathi-Dadawadi Tirth Yatra was conducted on September 20, at three home-temples of Minesh & Anisha Shah, Raju & Rekha Shah and Moti & Lata Champsee. More than one hundred devoted members participated.

Mrs. Lata Champsee is appointed to the Governing Council of the World Jain Confederation. WJC is an international Jain organization for the propagation of Jainism worldwide. Mrs. Champsee is the Vice-President of JAINA, Editor-in-Chief of Jain Digest and Trustee of Jain Society of Toronto. Congratulations are in order.

The Atmasiddhi Day and Shrimad Rajchandra Janma Jayanti were observed.

Shabnam Jabrani, a facilitator from Diabetes Awareness Education and Prevention Program conducted a workshop at the Jain Centre and brought awareness amongst our members on high incidence of Diabetes Mellitus in people of Indian subcontinent. She touched on dietary regiment advice with Jain food restrictions in mind. It was well received by all present.

Shree Shrenikbhai Shah, in his discourses inspired all of us to raise over \$9,000 towards Jiv Daya Fund. Our members are to be congratulated for their generosity.

Shree Hira Ratan Manek gave two talks on Solar healing. He has survived on water, tea, coffee and butter milk since 1992 and maintained perfect health and body weight.

Dr. Vastupal Parikh was honored with a "JAINA Recognition Award" at 12th Biennial JAINA Convention in Cincinnati. This award was for Dr. Parikh's book "Jainism and the New Spirituality". Gurudev Chitrabhanuji, while giving him the award, waved the book to an audience of about 2000 and said, "Here is the author of a great book on Jainism. I suggest that everyone must read it."

MONTREAL, PQ:

Two days sibir was organized during Shree Shrenikbhai's visit to Montreal. First day of sibir was on the Jainism and related topics. Question and answer period was very enlightening. Our small but vibrant community turned out in large number.

REGIONAL NEWS....

\$1000+ was collected to help needy in India as per Shrenikbhai's request.

Our Samaj had organized Jain Picnic in Month of August. To find out more about Jain Samaj of Montreal and its activity, please log on to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/JainsofMontreal>

WINNIPEG, MAN

Winnipeg, Manitoba has only 6-7 Jain families. what we like to call the "Jain Samaj Of Manitoba". On a monthly basis we all meet at someone's house and talk about the Jain philosophy. In addition to this we chant several stavans, which we have compiled and edited into a small booklet. Annually since last two years, on Mahavir Jayanti day we book the temple and have a pooja which is followed by the chanting of the Jain stavans and finally bhojan to end the day. This event has gone tremendously well and has been quite educative.

WEST

Chandrakant Parekh., Regional Editor

LOS ANGELES, CA

Jain Center of Southern California (JCSC) celebrated the Paryushan under the direction of Shri Kumarpal Desai and the Dasha Lakshana Mahaparva under the direction of Shri Girishbhai Shah. Large audiences attended daily discourses on various aspects of Jainism, and the daily Ekasana at the temple attracted many participants. Tapasvis included a large number of children and adults, and 41 of them observed 8 or more fasts. The culture program included a touching drama presented by the Jain Seniors. Kokilaben Doshi, Taraben Sethia, and Mahendrabhai

Khandhar presented a series of lectures in English for the benefits of the youths.

The construction of the new Jain Bhavan is progressing at a significant pace. First two containers of carved marble pieces are ready to be shipped from India. A charity 5K walkathon on Nov 2 raised more than \$52,000 for the expansion project. Additional fund raising activities include monthly donation commitments, sale of supermarket scripts etc. Opportunities to donate for major takhtis are still available. For a successful and timely completion of the new Jain Bhavan, community members have pledged to observe an Aymbil in rotation each and everyday, beginning Oct 26 till the project is completed. Project details, building plans, and progress photos are available at the [www.jaincenterexpansion .com](http://www.jaincenterexpansion.com) website.

JCSC will now be managed by two entities – an Executive Committee and a Board of Directors. The newly elected officers will assume office beginning Jan 1, 2004. Jain volunteers participated in the annual "WorldFest" event celebrating vegetarianism and environmentalism held in Los Angeles Sept 28. Jain Center Youth Council (JCYC) winter camp is scheduled for Dec 27-30.

Information about forthcoming programs and regular activities are posted on JCSC's website at www.jaincenter.net. For additional information, please contact Dr. Nitin Shah, JCSC President, at 714/506-6699 or nitin.shah@med.va.gov.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Jain Center of Northern California (JCNC) celebrated Paryushan and Dash Lakshana in various Jain traditions. The diverse rituals of different sects and the discourses of visiting scholars were also made available by web cast. Four different

Pratikraman sessions, including one in English, were organized to address the needs of various groups. Sri Hira Ratan Manek and Vijaya Diedi graced the Tapasvi recognition program. Pandit Shri Dhirubhai Mehta led the Snatra pooja. Shri Pareshbhai Maniar led the Shrimad Rajchandra Bhakti Swadhyay, which was well attended by Mumukshu Jains. Also, the web cast of the Swadhyay provided Dharmalaabh to devotees in Australia, India and England. Dr. Shekharchandra Jain guided the Digambar Dashalakshana Maha Parva. He also elucidated the essence of Tatvarth Sutra. Daily poojas were offered every morning for Dash Dharma and Shodush Karan Bhavanas. Surbhi Sethi, a young scholar, presented a discussion on "Scientific Approach to Jainism" every evening.

Recent visitors to JCNC included Robert Arnett, a highly acclaimed author of *India Unveiled*; Smita Turakhia, a noted illustrator of the book *Finder's Keepers*; Dr. Arul Shah, editor of *Jain Spirit*; Sri Hira Ratan Manek, a practitioner of sun gazing; and Sadhvi Shilapiji and Sadhvi Shubhamji who conducted workshops on how spirituality is related to daily lives. Sri Piyush Nagar together with Darshana Bhutta and a team of musicians led the popular celebrations of Navaratri and Dasara. Mahavir Nirvan and Diwali were celebrated on Oct 26th with a Mangalik pooja; a cultural program; a lecture on Agams by Taraben Doshi; and an aarti. The new Executive Committee and Board Of Directors were also sworn-in that day.

JCNC's outreach efforts to promote an understanding of Jainism to the Bay Area community were featured in the *San Jose Mercury News*. Dr. Wendy Abraham of Stanford University and several participants from UC Santa Cruz visited the temple during Paryushan. Stanford University medical students provided free health screening for all the Paryushan attendees.

REGIONAL NEWS....

Information about the forthcoming programs and regular activities are posted on JCNC's website at www.jcnc.org.

SACRAMENTO, CA

Jain Center of Greater Sacramento (JCGS) organizes a monthly Swadhyay, which is hosted by different families. Newsletter is published quarterly. 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 Paryushan Parva with great joy in the presence of Shree Manek Muniji. Many adults and youths observed the tap and saiyan aradhana. Paryushan activities included daily Swadhyay, pratikraman, a swapna ceremony and Samvatsary pratikraman which was also performed in English. Other visitors to JSSD included Samanji and Shree Tarlaben Doshi. JSSD organizes regular activities - a monthly Jainshala for children, adult classes, swadhyay, and a weekly pooja every Saturday at Shri Mandir. For additional information, please contact Trusha Shah, JSSD President, at 760/943-1241 or e-mail: shaht64@hotmail.com.

SEATTLE, WA

Jain Society of Seattle (JSS) organizes monthly gatherings at the Hindu Temple and Cultural Center, Bothell. Activities include a Navkar Jaap followed by puja, Bhaktambar Stotra, bhajans and lectures. For additional information, please contact Devkumar Gandhi, JSS President, at 425/235-4848 or email: dg@nexage.com. Information is also available at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/jainsocietyseattle/>

WASHINGTON, DC

Jain Society of Metropolitan Washington organized Uvassagaharam Maha Poojan and 18-Abhishek under the guidance of Narendrabhai Nandu and his group. All participants thoroughly enjoyed the excellent performance of the Poojan, Abhishek and the music. **Navkar Mantra Poojan in English** was performed by Diptiben Shah in July.

Pravachan programs by Pandit Abhaykumarji Jain, Sunandaben Vohra, Diptiben Shah, Nautambhai Vakil and Tarlaben Doshi were held in June-October. Panch Kalyanak Pooja, Antaray Karma Nivaran Pooja, and Vastuk Poojas were performed at the residence of members as well as at the Jain Center in June-August.

Paryushan Parva celebration was graced by Chandrakantbhai Mehta, a well-known Jain scholar from New Jersey. Each day, he delivered excellent Pravachan in the morning and evening, and held discussion and Q/A sessions in the afternoon. 15 persons stayed at the Jain Center. Athai was performed by 9 persons. Also, a number of very young children did fasting. **Swapna Darshan Ceremony** was held on August 30. The program was attended by 550 people. **Samvatsari Pratikraman** was attended by over 400 persons. Pratikraman in English was held in parallel at the Jain Center was attended by over 150 children and adults.

Das Lakshan Parva program included a brief explanation of each of the ten dharma, Siddha Poojan and its explanation, and listening to tapes on Pravachans by Gurudev Chitrabhanu, Dr. Bharill, and Pandit Sumatprakashji.

Panch Teerth Yatra was held during the weekend of September 20-21, 2003. 85 persons traveled by 2 buses and visited 5 temples. They visited Rajdhani Mandir (Virginia); Multi-Faith Lotus Temple near Lynchburg, VA; and the Hindu-Jain Temple

in Charlotte, NC, Hindu-Jain temples in Raleigh, NC and Richmond, VA. All visited centers gave a very warm welcome and offered excellent hospitality.

Samuha Ayambil program was held on Oct 5 and on Thanksgiving Day. About 40 persons performed Ayambil each day. **Nav Smaran** and Diwali/New Year celebration held on Oct 26 was attended by over 350 persons.

CLEVELAND, OH

The Jain Society of Greater Cleveland (JSGC) had a very successful year full of activities during 2003. The year began with the celebration of the Mahavir Jayanti program in April with a Snatra Pooja. The Sangh approved an updated constitution to keep up with the current needs of the Society on the same day. This was followed by a very successful Bhajan Sandhya program with the renowned singer and music director Shri Ravindra Jain and his troupe. Over 150 people attended the program. The Jain Sangh organized a successful picnic in August.

JSGC had a strong presence at the JAINA Convention in Cincinnati with over 30 families participating. Cleveland Jain Sangh members contributed the Shatrunjay (Palitana) Temple Rachna and the Samavasaran replica for display at the convention. These were highly appreciated by the convention attendees.

The Satsang and Swadhyay activities continued throughout the year with weeklong visits of renowned scholars, Sunandaben Vora, Dhirajbhai Pandit and Nautambhai Vakil. The lectures held during weekday evenings and all day events on weekends were very well attended. The Sangh's own Swadhyay group, which meets on the second Sunday of every month, continued for its ninth consecutive year. They are now covering the Tattvarth Sutra.

ASIAN INDIANS (NRIs) IN U.S.A:

ROLE OF 'LEADERSHIP'

F.J. Dalal, Lanham, MD

A QUARTER CENTURY REVIEW:

It pains a lot to read and hear about futile and persistent feud among Leadership Cliques of Indian Community Organizations. During last twenty-five years, the population of Indian Immigrants to U.S.A. has been gradually increasing at a faster pace. Now, it has reached over 1.8 million. With this, the need for Community Organizations grew by leaps and bounds. The growing need for Community Organizations has now been more than fulfilled. The time is just ripe for consolidating and re-phasing them.

The unwieldy and mushrooming growth of religious, linguistic, cultural, professional, business, social, and political organizations have led to considerable overlapping. A vehement unhealthy destructive rivalry has obviously resulted among the leadership. The ugly face of squabbles have resulted due to immaturity, lack of proper perspective and Futuristic Vision. Many good intentioned leaders who pioneered the national organizations could not cope, guide, or direct. Before bickerings among a few ambitious leaders(?) and misguided cliques explode to negate the high achievements of the entire Indian Community, it is high time we take right course of action.

TYPICAL ORGANIZATIONS:

We have umpteen Religious organizations of Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Jains, and others with their sects and sub-sects. We have organizations of almost all conceivable Languages. We have many organizations of Professionals and Businesses such as Hotel/Motels, Doctors, Lawyers, Pharmacists, Engineers, and others. Many have their regional/national and sub-specialists organizations. We have many regular National Conventions, except of Gujaratis. I am told and have noticed that the initial euphoria of massive Tamashas(?) with movie and political persona have recently receded slightly.

PREEMINENT NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

On the top of all the above, we have National Organizations and their Chapters, such as –

1. AIA: Association of Indians in America founded by Dr. Manoranjan Dutta.
2. FIA-NFIA: (National) Federation of Indian American Associations founded by Dr. Thomas Abraham.
3. IAFPE: Indian American Forum for Political Education founded by Dr. Joy Cherian.

4. AAPI: American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin founded by Dr. Ujam Kothari.
5. AAHOA: The powerful and well funded organization of Asian American Hotel Owners Association predominantly led by the ingenious Patel Community.

On the top of National organizations, there are two Special Organizations:

1. IANF: Indian American National Foundation was formed in Washington, D.C. for lobbying purposes by four (# 2 thru 5 above). I understand that it has turned dis-functional due to un-resolvable dispute for Leadership.

2. GOPIO: Global Organization of People of Indian Origin founded to bring together the entire prosperous and thriving Indian Community (NRIs) around the world. It was, once again, led by Dr. Thomas Abraham's vision of unifying the Indian Diaspora of all Indians outside India to enhance the pre-eminence of India and Indians in the emerging and realigning Global Village. Last year, it had a grand inauguration in New Delhi where eminent personalities from the world over participated. This organization needs full nourishment. The great Report of Government of India's Dr. Singhvi's Commission on Historical Indian Diaspora has been a valuable document to carry forward the stature of India and Indians all over the world in the 21st Century.

THE PROBLEM:

Many organizations have been stuffed with a few ambitious and resourceful leaders who are able to manipulate them for power, prestige, position, and control. Lately, we hear and read about the infighting between cliques at the expense of smooth working for the noble goals and purposes. I personally do not doubt about the sincerity and sacrifices of some of them with whom I came in contact during the crucial foundation-laying initial formative period of early seventies.

THE WAY OUT: HUMBLE SUGGESTIONS:

Let us not fritter away the wealth of Grace and Experience. The First Generation is fast aging. This is the Right Time to Rethink and Re-organize the entire (Cob) Web of Organizations.

1. To start with, let us not formulate any more organizations, including Temple Building, etc.

2. Induct the successful and emerging Second Generation by sharing Positions and Power.
3. Senior Leaders should voluntarily make room for responsible others and turn themselves into Honorable Advisors.
4. Our organizations should recast themselves into one overall organization in 435 U.S. Political Constituencies among 50 States and Protectorates doing various activities starting from PTAs, City Councils, Multi-Faith Community/Cultural Centers, etc. 100 elected representatives, 2 per state, will form the National Council and there will be only one elected Spokes-person for all Indians at City/Local, County, State, and National/Federal level.
5. This will conserve and efficiently use the Community Resources.

All these could be achieved by the brain storming sessions among the few thinking and visionary leaders at all the constituency levels. There will be no dearth of leadership positions and every one aspiring to lead will have ample opportunities to prove. We have to place Round Pegs In Round Holes. Our responsibility will be to fulfil our Sacred Duties for our Motherland India and the Adopted Fatherland of U.S.A., Canada, U.K., etc.

Let us be Humble, but Proud at the same time for our achievements so far. We have yet to achieve higher heights/Peaks, of which we are more than capable and resourceful. Partisan Politics should be played, not for personal selfish ego trips and ulterior motives. Well-formulated Uniform Demands for India to grow into the World Leadership and Indians/NRIs the Respected Community around the world. We, Indians and India, can and will learn and out bit the Jews and Israel. For this Lofty Goals, let us all Work Together with all our Might.

JAIN DIGEST LIFE MEMBERS:

712U	Kirti & Barbara Shah	North Manchester, IN
713U	Sharad & Bina Gandhi	Voorhees, NJ
714U	Parash & Rina Shah	Great Falls, VA
715U	Gaurav Jain	Rye Brook, NY
716U	Mahesh & Sudha Shah	Fort Collins, CO
717U	Dinbandhu & Kumudini Shah	Ardsey NY
26 F	Daksha Sanghvi	Quates (Geneva)Switzerland

This is a list of new Jain Digest life members whose dues were received upto Nov 15,03. Please send your \$151.00 Jain Digest life membership dues to Keerti Shah, 842 Lakeside Drive, Bartlett, IL 60103 **Phone: 630-837-8716.**

ROLE OF SENIOR CITIZENS

Sunshine and Dimension of Seniors

— *Gurudev Chitrabhanuji*

The world still has to recognize the true meaning and worth of 'Senior Citizens.' They are generally thought to be a spent lifeforce, graying, ageing and tottering persons who are a burden to their families and society! What the society does not recognize is that Senior Citizens are a vibrant storehouse of knowledge, experience and wisdom. They can be the nation's richest resource. Professional expertise and acumen accumulated over decades can now be made available for the betterment of the needier sections of the society, and for guidance of the youngsters who are seeking direction in their lives.

Only after a tree has seen all the seasons, particularly the heat of summer, is it able to produce its most luscious and ripe fruits. So it is also with human beings. After years of a tumultuous and eventful life, man also matures into his ripeness, when he transits to being a Senior Citizen. His truly meaningful and selfless contribution to society can be made only at this stage, when he has no other bindings, except to share his 'worth' with the needy.

As Buddha sat in silence, a gardener brought him a basket of ripe mangoes, in tribute. Buddha picked a mango and offered it to the gardener, in total silence. The gardener said, "Thank you, but please show me how to live life." Buddha again picked another mango and gave it to him, in total silence. The gardener was perplexed. He asked again, "Lord, show me how to live life." As Buddha continued his silence, his disciple said to the gardener, "Don't you understand what he is saying? He is saying that you must live life in such a way that one day you are as ripe and delicious to the world as your own mangoes!"

Similarly, I am sure that the members of the Powai Senior Citizens Association will, through their various activities and projects, bring succor to the needy and the dispossessed. Thereby, they will bring sunshine and a new dimension into the lives of others and in the process discover the richness of their own inner Self.

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.

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: 155, Male: 142 (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 re-spect, 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 reserve the right to edit all such ads. Follow step 2 above, but submit your own ad with phone number instead of a completed form and photo. **Full Name, Address, Phone number of the candidate must be furnished with the ads for MIS records, without which 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 - FEMALE

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

F623: Parents invite proposals with photo / biodata for attractive fair slim caring vegetarian Canadian born daughter, Sept 78, 5'5", 112 lb, working as Regd. Cardiology Technologist, from cultured educated outgoing vegetarian Jain or Agarwal boys. Call: 905/459-4357. Email: mbmatri78@hotmail.com

F751: Responses invited for beautiful slim talented cultured strictly vegetarian well-rounded fun loving compassionate US born Gujarati girl, March 74, 5'6", MD, working as Pediatrician. Recently ended a very short marriage (never lived together). Seeking similar valued professional vegetarian from a well-settled family. Call: 248/926-0863.

F908: Correspondence invited for Gujarati Jain vegetarian beautiful fair, values both cultures, talented, US born girl, July 77, 5'8", BS (IOE)& MBA (MIS), well positioned with reputed company, from well educated vegetarian cultured boys. Email: shah_amp@yahoo.com

F951: Jain parents invite proposals for attractive intelligent outgoing US citizen daughter, born Jan 76, 5'1", well employed as Regd Nurse, from well-educated professional cultured boys. Email: dshah4567@msn.com

F952: Gujarati parents invite proposals with photo / biodata for pretty charming slim vegetarian cultured accomplished US born / raised daughter, Nov 72, 5'4", MD / MPH, from cultured, vegetarian non-smoker US raised professional / MD boys. Call: 617-739-1319. or email sjdoshi72@yahoo.com

F967: Alliance invited for beautiful charming slim brilliant accomplished vegetarian US raised daughter, born Sept 78, 5'7", MMS (Master of Medical Science), well employed as Physician Assistant, from US raised well educated vegetarian professionals. Call: 602/971-0149. Email: latim100@yahoo.com

F1021: Alliance invited for pretty slim vegetarian cultured divorcee Gujarati girl, born Dec 74, 5'5", 108 lb, BS (comp.), well employed, from well educated, cultured suitable match. Call: 631/254-8050. Email: sejalnjhaveri@hotmail.com

F1024: Alliance invited for pretty attractive talented vegetarian Gujarati girl, born Oct 79, 5'2", 95 lb, MBA, from cultured well educated vegetarian boys. Call: 314/434-1780. Email: sunandaghelani@hotmail.com

F1025: Gujarati parents invite responses for beautiful slim vegetarian US citizen dtr, March 79, 5'6", BSN RN, well employed as RN, from cultured well educated professional (MS Engineers preferred) boys. email: nurse4life03@hotmail.com

F1026: Alliance invited for pretty charming intelligent vegetarian Gujarati girl, born Jan 75, 5'4", MD, from well educated professional boys. Call: 732/283-0755. Email: devulmehta@hotmail.com

F1027: Proposals invited for beautiful attractive talented vegetarian Gujarati girl, born Sept 77, 5'4", 130 lb, MA, well employed with World Bank, from well educated cultured boys. Call: 202/332-1682. Email: ekta_kothari@yahoo.com

AF236: Gujarati parents invite alliance for beautiful fair slim talented caring US born daughter, May 74, 5'5", 125 lb, BS, RD, well employed as Regd Dietitian, pursuing master's degree (anticipates graduation by spring 04), from suitable cultured educated match. Call: 908/757-7424. Email: JaiVais@hotmail.com

AF398: Gujarati parents invite proposals for attractive slim cultured vegetarian dtr, born July 76, 5'0", 95 lb, MBA, employed in IT, from India born cultured vegetarian non-smoker professional boys. Call: 412/521-5164. Email: gujarat_garvi@hotmail.com

AF399: Gujarati parents invite proposals for beautiful slim accomplished vegetarian Canadian Citizen daughter, born Dec 79, 5'3", 105 lb, BE (Comp Engg), employed as IT analyst, from cultured professional boys. Call: 416/494-3702. Email: snap2151@yahoo.com

AF400: Gujarati parents invite responses for slim charming vegetarian US born daughter, April 76, 5'2", MD, doing residency, from cultured well educated boys. Email: SPJ112@yahoo.com

AF401: Alliance invited from vegetarian cultured well educated / settled boys for beautiful slim caring Gujarati (widowed No-issue) girl, Cost Accountant, born Feb 76, 5'5", pursuing CPA on H-1 visa. Call: 562/947-4551. kotharih53@yahoo.com

MALE:

AM403: Proposals invited for handsome brilliant vegetarian Gujarati boy, born Dec 79, 5'8", 140 lb, MS (comp sc), research professional, from cultured educated vegetarian girls. Call: 630/971-8015. Email: chhayu_sanju@hotmail.com

M1031: Gujarati parents invite proposals with photo/bio-data for amiable, intelligent, vegetarian U.S. citizen son 25, 5'6", B.S. (computer science), pursuing M.B.A, employed with large global co, from educated, cultured girls. Call: 609/799-3470. Email: vshahnj@yahoo.com

M1020: Jain parents invite proposals with biodata / photo, from cultured educated girls for handsome fair intelligent vegetarian US born son, June 78, 5'7", BS (Fin. NYU Stern), well positioned Investment Banker. Call: 732 / 887 - 5904. Email: prs_matrimonial@yahoo.com

M1022: Gujarati boy 27 yrs, 6', 170 lb, US citizen, completing PhD (EE), non-smoking, vegetarian, very compassionate, with strong family values & Indian / western culture, seeking responses with photo / biodata from educated cultured attractive outgoing girls with strong family values. Email: shaolin11@hotmail.com

M1023: Gujarati parents invite responses for handsome successful professional US citizen son, born Feb 75, 6'0", 180 lb, MBA, well positioned, from well-educated cultured girls. Call: 412/521-7012. Email: ghkothari@netzero.com

M1028: Gujarati parents invite responses for handsome talented vegetarian US citizen son, born Aug 77, 5'6", 140 lb, MD, from cultured educated girls. Call: 850/234-6247. Email: medsshah@aol.com

M1029: Alliance invited for handsome brilliant vegetarian US citizen Gujarati boy, born Aug 75, 5'11", 138 lb, BA, well employed in IT, will start MBA from 2004, from cultured educated girls. Call: 516/731-3469 darshan.sanghvi@footlocker.com

M1030: Alliance invited for very handsome intelligent vegetarian US raised Gujarati boy, born Dec 74, 6'0", 160 lb, MS, divorced (never lived together), successful software engineer for multinational co., Ph; 203/798-0596 nbs_37@hotmail.com

AM402: Jain parents seek responses from beautiful educated girls age between 23 - 25, Ht at least 5'6", for their physician son, born in 78, 6'3", fair skinned and exceptionally handsome. Email: Drguj@aol.com

INSTITUTE OF JAINOLOGY Ahimsa Day Celebrations In House of Commons

Ahimsa or Non-violence in all its modes is the first and foremost precept of the Jain philosophy. To commemorate this principle, most relevant in this day and age, the Institute of Jainology organised a celebration at the **House of Commons, England** which was hosted by Mr Stephen Pound, MP, and Chairman of the Labour Friends of India.

After an auspicious prayer, Mr Pound welcomed the audience to this first Ahimsa Day Celebration. Mr Pound having learnt about Jain philosophy only in last few weeks talked at length about it and expressed a desire that London one day would become a centre of world peace.

A short video film 'Quest for World without Violence' was then screened showing several Nobel Peace Laureates recounting their experiences of having used non violence to support their cause. This included, Simon Peres, Desmond Tutu and Dalai Lama. Finally the excerpts from Mahatma Gandhi's life were shown followed by Indian national anthem sung and played by the major artists in India.



Mr Peter Luff, MP, and Chairman of the Conservative Friends of India, related personal experience of his recent visit to India.

Other prominent speakers included Dr L M Singhvi, Former High Commissioner for India in UK, Prof. Richard Gombrich, Boden Professor of Sanskrit at the Balliol College, Oxford, and Mr Ronen Sen. High Commissioner of India for UK.

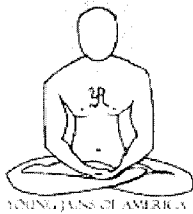
Teachings of two of the world's greatest spiritual leaders in the fifth century before the Christian era: Mahavira and the Buddha had left this legacy in India and then went to express the Bhuddhist concept of Ahimsa.

Mr Mahesh K Shah, and Mr Harshad N Sanghrajka, both Trustees of the Institute of Jainology gave informative talks on the activities of the Institute and the Jain Diaspora, respectively.

Opportunity was taken by some office bearers of the World Jain Confederation to attend the event. Mr Pratap Bhogilal, Chairman of the World Jain Confederation, Mr Chetanya Kasyap, Vice President, and Mr Mahesh Gandhi a member of the Governing Council were present. Dr L M Singhvi, of course, is the President of the WJC.

Goodwill messages were received from the Home Minister, Rt Hon David Blunkett, Minister for culture, Sports & Media Ms Tessa Jowell, Secretary of State for Trade & Industry Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt and Lord Dholakia the Chairman of Liberal Democratic Party.

The Institute of Jainology expect to make this an annual event with a variety of prominent speakers expressing their views on the relevance of non-violence in contemporary times.



YOUNG JAINS OF AMERICA

Federation of Jain Associations in North America

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

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Jai Jinendra,

Young Jains of America is proud to announce that this year has been a one of our best ever. With the continued support we receive from hard-working parents, dedicated volunteers, Jain sanghs across the nation, and our board members, we continue to grow. Each day, we are working to find ways to serve our members.

YJA kick started its regional conferences. This year, the conferences are designed to be smaller and provide a personal touch for each participant. YJA's first regional conference took place this November over the Thanksgiving weekend. We hope to have six regional conferences successfully completed by January 2004.

YJA teamed up with Veerayatan last year to encourage young dedicated Jains from North America to donate their time and work in India. The youth that worked last year made a difference in the lives of those less fortunate. We encourage anyone that would like to learn more about Veerayatan email us at veerayatan@yja.org. Also this winter, YJA is cosponsoring the Know Kachhh trip with YJP and KOJAIN. This opportunity allows participants to volunteer at Bidada Medical Camp and the ability to explore palaces, beaches and local attractions and to make new friends.

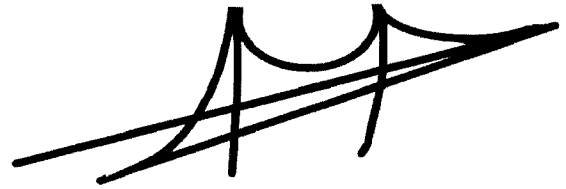
We are excited to announce that preparations for the sixth biennial convention are well under way. YJA is working hard to present to the Jain community the best convention to date. This year's convention will take place from July 1 – 4, 2004 in Santa Clara, CA. This auspicious event will unite 1000 youth, distinguished speakers, spiritual leaders, and dedicated volunteers under one roof for an amazing, spiritually enlivening weekend. We present *Y Jain? To See, To Know, To Realize* as the theme for the convention YJA and the Bay Area Convention Committee with the blessings of the Jain Center of Northern California, promise to present a memorable convention. Registration begins in January 2004 so register soon!

We are having a great year so far and hope to build on these successes in 2004. We hope that with your help we can continue to reach higher benchmarks and look forward to seeing you at many of our events. We would like to thank everyone for their continued support and are looking forward to a strong finish in 2003 and a grand start to 2004!

Many thanks,

Arpan Shah and Chirag Shah
Co-Chairs, 2003-2004
Young Jains of America
chairs@yja.org
www.yja.org

y/JAIN?



TO SEE, TO KNOW, TO REALIZE

YJAin? Why should we practice Jainism? This convention will provide the youth the ability to answer this question for themselves. The convention will take the participant one step further in the direction of incorporating the philosophical tenets of Jainism into our everyday lives. The theme helps break down this process: **To See** - introduce events that occur in our daily lives; **To Know** - learn what Jainism says about these events; **To Realize** - apply what we see with what we learned into our daily reality.

Learn About Your Interests



- Geared to stimulate your interests, select from a variety of sessions that fall under a newly designed track system focused on a general topic and specific to your age group. Each attendee can choose from several tracks that underlie the goal: To See, To Know, To Realize.
- Sample track themes will include: *College Lifestyles*, *Anekantvaad – Let's Keep it Real*, *To Be or Not to Be – Jainism and Ethics*, and *Being Jain Tomorrow*.
- Sample topics within these tracks will include: college organization's impact on Jainism, current event discussions, practicing Jain ideals in the 21st century, and interactive Jain cooking and music classes.

Come Try Something New

- *First-Ever Hawaiian Luau*: Meld eastern and western flavors at the Hawaiian Luau...learn how to hula dance and make new friends from around the globe.
- *J2J – 21+ Networking Forum*: Make new contacts and lifelong friends through specialized activities geared to the 21 and above.
- *International Focus*: Meet international Jain Center delegates and enjoy special sessions organized by international Jain Sanghs.
- *State of the Art Technology*: Enjoy interactive sessions and advanced Silicon Valley technology to improve your convention experience.

For more information, visit www.yja.org/convention

Bay Area, California

YJA Convention 2004

July 1-4, 2004

Experience Sunny California

Residing in the heart of Silicon Valley, the Westin Santa Clara embodies the elements of a true luxury hotel. As the exclusive guests of the hotel, you will have full access to the gracious staff and numerous hotel facilities. As a convention attendee, you will enjoy unprecedented small classes and comfort with the expansive meeting space and lounge areas unique to this hotel. Experience sunny Bay Area weather during planned outdoor recreational activities throughout the convention. Come to the convention to learn more about Jainism, in the unsurpassed comfort of the Westin.



What You Need To Do

Convention Registration Begins January 12, 2004!

Register Online at www.yja.org/convention!

Important Dates	Significance	Price
January 12, 2004 - February 15, 2004	1st Registration Pricing Block	\$250
February 16, 2004 - April 4, 2004	2nd Registration Pricing Block	\$275
April 5, 2004	Class Registration Begins	--
April 5, 2004 - June 30, 2004	3rd Registration Pricing Block	\$300
May 15, 2004	Last Day to Cancel Registration	--
July 1, 2004	First Day of Convention	--

For those who would like to attend but are in need of financial assistance, arrangements may be made by contacting our Jain Center President Bipin Shah at president@jcnc.org.

Help Make This a Success

YJA Convention 2004 Donation Form

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone No.: _____

Amount wish to donate: ☐ \$101 ☐ \$251 ☐ \$501 ☐ \$1,001 ☐ \$2,501 ☐ \$5,001 ☐ \$10,001

Please make all checks payable to **YJA Convention** and send to:

YJA Convention, 1476 Petal Way, San Jose, CA 95129

For further information, please contact Samir Ajmera or Rina Shah at baccchairs@yja.org

For more information, visit www.yja.org/convention

Bay Area, California



YOUNG JAIN PROFESSIONALS (YJP)

Sixth Annual Young Jain Professionals Convention

The 6th Annual Young Jain Professionals convention was held in San Diego from October 10 to 13, 2003. Jains from the US, Canada and England convened at the Shelter Pointe Hotel and Marina and participated in scholarly presentations and team building activities for the weekend.

The convention began Friday evening with icebreaker activities. The activities facilitated getting to know each other while challenging our minds. Saturday morning then began with a yoga session, where participants had the chance to warm up for the day, led by Dinesh Shah of San Diego.

This was followed by a presentation by Yogendra Jain on "Re-branded and Re-packaged: Jainism's Role in Reshaping Future Human Thoughts". This presentation challenged the notion that Jainism must be taught using traditional methodology and addressed the idea that Jain teachings could be made more appealing and more accessible to a Western population by implementing creative ideas such as a Jain theme park. Although some of the concepts presented might not become reality in the immediate future, discussing such ideas encouraged the audience to think about these issues.

Next was a presentation by Prem Jain, senior vice president of Cisco, called "If Ken Lay were Jain... Would we have had an Enron?" This presentation addressed the contradictions many of us face about maintaining Jain values while working and excelling in the business world, such as promoting strengths and hiding weaknesses of products and creating stress in the family when working long hours.

After a break for lunch was a session titled "Creating Inner Balance... Can it really be achieved?" presented by Erik Sowder of Kaiser Permanente. This presentation emphasized the importance of balancing physical, mental, and emotional energies. In this session, Mr. Sowder helped the audience understand the mind/body connection through biofeedback technology.

Sunday morning again started with yoga. This was followed by a presentation by Dr. Manoj Jain, a physician

specializing in infectious diseases, called "What's 'in' for the 21st Century? Jainism?!". This session challenged the Cartesian mind/body model and posited the existence of the soul and the existence of vibrations that bring together the mind, body, and soul.

Next came a follow-up to the session "Re-branded and Re-packaged: Jainism's Role in Reshaping Future Human Thoughts", where each of the groups presented their ideas on the topics they had been assigned to. Each group had apparently put a lot of thought into their ideas and recommendations. At the end, Yogendra Jain indicated that these ideas will all be presented to JAINA in hopes of actually implementing them. Thus the activity was not only a thought provoking exercise for the participants, but was also shown to have practical importance.

After lunch, the group headed off to Balboa Park, where we met up with Team Building USA again for another afternoon of bonding activities. At the park, attendees participated in a scavenger hunt. After returning from the park, Amar Salgia, presented a session on "Balance in Anekantavada". This session explained the proper meaning of Anekantavada, helped dispel some of the misconceptions about Anekantavada's meaning and purpose, and clarified ways of actually applying it in our day-to-day lives.

That night, many of the participants stayed up most of the night, enjoying their last hours together before having to go off in separate directions. A few even remained awake long enough to watch the sun rise. Monday, as everyone parted, many looked forward to seeing each other at next year's YJP Convention.

Another successful conference came to a close, with many strong bonds being formed and connections being made. Thanks to the hard work of this year's YJP Board: Suchita Gala, Rajesh Shah, Dhaval Shah, Mruna Shah and Paulomi Gudka.

For more information about YJP please visit www.yjponline.org. You will also be able to view some of the presentation made at this year's conference.

HOSPITALITY IS ALWAYS OUR MAIN COURSE TO LONDON AND INDIA.



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CALCUTTA	TRIVANDRUM



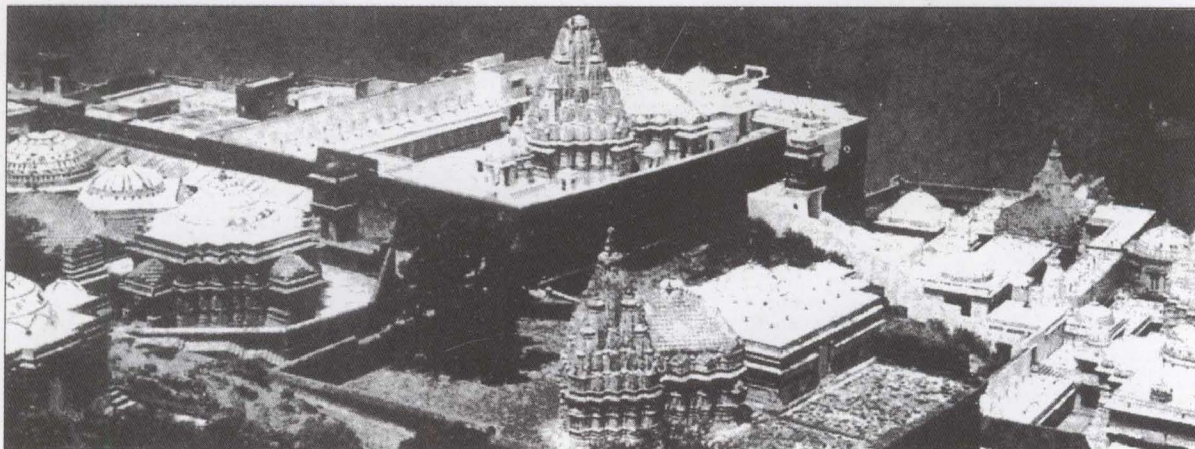
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Bandra (West), Bombay 400050
INDIA
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