

# JAIN DIGEST

A Publication by the Federation of Jain Associations in North America  
Fall 2005  
Volume 24, No. 2



## CONVENTION 2005

# JAIN TEMPLE, WASHINGTON, DC



## JAI JINENDRA

### *Dialogue Between Master And Student*

कहं चरे कहं चिट्ठे कहमासे कहं सए ।

कहं भुंजंतो भासंतो पावं कम्मं न बंधई ॥

**What should be the mode of movements?  
Of standing, sitting, lying, eating or talking  
So that there is no bondage and karma  
Emanating from our daily activities?**

जयं चरे जयं चिट्ठे जयमासे जयं सए ।

जयं भुंजंतो भासंतो पावं कम्मं न बंधई ॥

**When you walk, walk with awareness.  
When you stand, be mindful.  
When you sit, be aware.  
When you sleep, be peaceful.  
When you eat and speak, be watchful.  
Commit no harm, to any living being,  
Which may invite painful karmic consequences.**

-- Dasavaikalika 429 BC

**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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# JAIN DIGEST

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## From the President.....

Fellow JAINA members,

Jai Jinendra;

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be your President. I am humbled by the trust you have placed in me, and I assure you I will carry out my responsibility with integrity and honor. Let me at the outset commend our immediate Past-President Anopbhai Vora and his executive committee for having done an excellent job in serving JAINA. I know it would be a hard act to follow, but with the continuing support of our past leadership and with the infusion of some of the newer talent on our team, I am ready to lead.

Today I sense a growing need for the role of Jainism in the world faced with war and terrorism. With each generation of Jains, here, in India, and abroad, we face new challenges in maintaining our faith and our community. Yet through the joint efforts of JAINA, and its constituent chapters and individuals, we can take our community to unprecedented levels and pass on a remarkable legacy to future generations. My vision revolves around empowering Jains at every level. Our greatest achievement is that JAINA has brought our global Jain community together. We need to look beyond our individual sects and realize that we will always be more alike than we are different.

Regardless of sectarian or ritualistic differences we are Jains at heart, and will remain so. We are very fortunate that in our adopted country we have the opportunity to worship with Jains from different sects and regions of India. This allows us to develop mutual respect for each other through better understanding and personal experience of broader views and customs. With this enhanced appreciation and knowledge base, JAINA has committed itself to advocating a nonsectarian approach that allows Jains of all backgrounds to work together for common good of Jainism. Mere words wouldn't suffice. We must act now. I will start with JAINA itself and appoint a committee to review and suggest whatever changes are necessary to ensure that our constitution is compatible with this mission of unification.

Eventually, I am eager to build JAINA with the most willing and qualified people from our many centers who are dedicated to this underlying theme that I am so vigorously advocating. The local Sanghs are our greatest resource. In order to perpetuate a message of unification throughout our network of Jains, we need to find a mechanism to involve their leaders in the inter-workings of JAINA. Only by giving a greater and more direct voice to these individuals can JAINA claim to be representative of all Jains. Pending the appointment and work of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, it is my personal appeal to all Sanghs to please nominate your most willing and dedicated people to work with JAINA, whether as a director or a committee member. JAINA's best work is done by its committees; therefore let us strengthen these committees by dedicated and broadminded, able and willing, people. And, let me be sure our youths have the opportunity to develop and become our future leaders. I plan to integrate them on many of our committees.

Additionally, I plan to appoint a special task force to explore with me the creation of our first Jain Senior Citizen Community Center. My vision is to establish a permanent JAINA headquarter adjunct with this center. Hopefully, based on our model, many other Jain Senior Citizen Centers would crop up all across North America adjoining existing or new Jain centers. In discussing with many of you, I have become fully cognizant of the need for such an initiative. I plan to begin serious work on this project.

I also need your support in strengthening JAINA as a financially strong and well endowed entity. As you are well aware, many religious organizations in the western hemisphere thrive on some sort of centrally endowed entity that enables their growth and perpetuation. I suggest it is high time we begin to think along those lines in order to provide a framework for our future generations to feel proud of. Therefore, I will invite you to join me in creating an endowment that, with seed money, would allow us to address our coordinated needs for creating centers of Jain Studies at various regional universities, as well as promoting



(continued on page 4)

# JAIN DIGEST

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## From Editor In Chief:

Jai Jinendra !

JAIN DIGEST congratulates JCNC for successfully hosting Convention 2005. We acknowledge thousands of hours spent by the volunteers in making it a success.

JAIN DIGEST congratulates the new Executive

Committee under the leadership of Mr. Kirit Daftary and wishes them the very best.

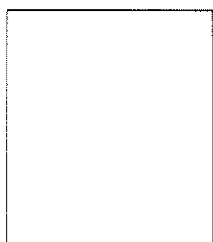
We would like to hear from you, Share your ideas through letters to the Editor. Feel free to send in any articles or information you may wish to share it with the community at large. Hope to hear from you.

Lata Champsee

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### Past Presidents of JAINA

1981-83



1983 - 85  
Manoj Dharamshi



1985 - 87  
Tansukh Salgia



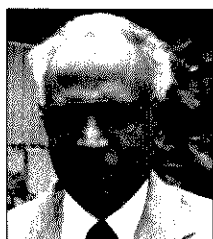
1987- 93  
Sulekh Jain



1993- 95  
Jagat Jain



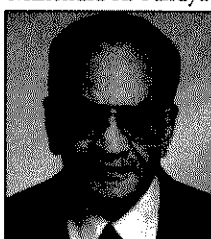
1995 - 97  
Manibhai Mehta



1997- 99  
Dhiraj Shah



1999-2001  
Mahendra K. Pandya



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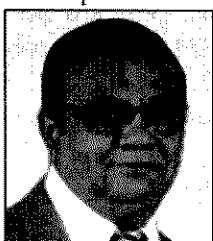


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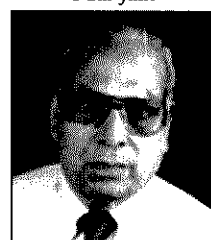
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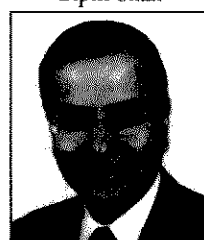
Southeast US  
Deepika Dalal



Southwest US  
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West US  
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# FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT

Jai Jinendra!

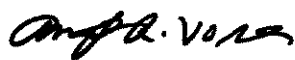
I thank every one-especially the members of the JAINA Executive Committee and the Working Committees- for helping me during the last two years of my presidency. I have made a humble attempt in propelling JAINA forward and hope that I am leaving JAINA in a better shape than when I took it over as President. I have put in place a lot of changes whose impact may not be seen right away but I am sure will be felt for years to come.

Some of our community members ask: What has JAINA done for me? We have devoted this whole issue of Jain Digest to make you aware of what JAINA is doing for you. Please study the breadth and depth of JAINA's operations. If it is not catering to your needs and if you think it is going in the wrong direction, please speak up and get involved. On the other hand if you feel JAINA is providing many valuable services to the community and then please nurture and support it. Remember you have the power to shape the future of JAINA. To improve the future of JAINA, people should be asking a different question: What can I do for JAINA?

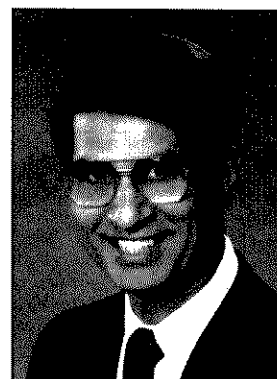
As new leaders step in, JAINA will keep marching forward. I truly believe that JAINA as an organization has a huge potential. Our challenge has been and will always be to unite the people with different backgrounds and styles and steer them in the right direction to realize the potential. If we forget our differences, behave like Jain brothers and sisters and pull in the same direction, we can move mountains.

On a personal level, the last two years have been a gratifying and growing experience for me. I have come in contact with so many talented people from whom I have learned a great deal. Having tackled several difficult problems at JAINA, I feel I have a much better understanding of ANEKANTWAD and EQUANIMITY. No amount of book reading would have done that! I am very grateful for this wonderful opportunity. I will always cherish the pleasant memories of my association with many new friends and acquaintances for years to come.

With Warmest Personal Regards,



Anop R. Vora



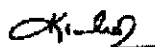
(cont from page 1) *From the President....*

growth of additional Jain centers and temples within reach of many more communities within our midst. As I plough my way through many other areas of interest, please forward your feedback to me so I can formalize my approach to start this important initiative. Whatever we do, one thing is certain that JAINA will not support a non-unified approach to funding any effort.

As a convener for the last two years I have come across many talented and hard driving people across the country. I have come to realize that in order for the JAINA convention to be truly reflective of JAINA, we need to approach it without burdening the resources of a particular Sangh, at least not for detailed planning and coordination. It would be perfectly justifiable to involve many volunteers for the actual execution, but it would perhaps be wiser to involve professional planners for detailed planning and coordination. I am going to ponder some more on this subject and with the help of our new executive committee see how best to undertake the next convention.

Finally, we must not forget that JAINA's future rests in the hands of its individuals, its Sanghs, and the collective effort of its committees and leaders. We stand at the edge of greatness and now the Jain way of life is needed more than ever in the global community. It is time that Ahimsa and Anekantvad become internationally understood terms. Through our own example of Jain way of living and leading, we can awaken global consciousness and make our Jain community stronger than ever. Join me in making these visions a reality.

With best wishes



Kirit Daftary

# ACHIEVEMENTS OF JAINA DURING MY PRESIDENCY (2003-2005)

I was very active with the Jain Society of Rochester and with the International Alumni Association of Shri Mahavir Jain Vidyalaya until 1995. In the spring of that year, Mahendra Dosi from Houston and Chandrakant Khasgiwala from Boston called me and urged me to get involved in JAINA. They thought I should be able help JAINA as it was going through a turbulent period at the time. I was elected as the Regional VP for North East. After serving in that capacity for 4 years, I became a Treasurer (1999-2001), First VP and Convention Convener (2001-2003) and then the President in July of 2003.

Two years is a very short period to make a big impact on a large organization like JAINA but with the help from the Executive Committee members, I have made quite a difference. I led a cohesive team and came up with many changes. Here are the highlights of the initiatives:

1. Soon after I became the President, JAINA Committees were restructured. Some of them were eliminated; new ones were added to reflect the changing needs of the community.

2. We reactivated the Patron Program and raised \$65,000. This should contribute to the financial well being of JAINA on a longer-term basis.

3. To disseminate important news quickly, we started electronics newsletter called JAINA Spectrum.

4. We made further progress in improving the quality of Jain Digest. Now you see more colors, more photographs, religious articles, and timely printing and distribution. We raised our circulation to 9,500 from 8,000 families.

5. There has been a desire to revise the JAINA Constitution for a long time. I am pleased to inform you that we are very close to sharing with you a draft of the revised constitution. Upon approval, it will attract more volunteers and JAINA will become more efficient. The whole process might take another 3 to 4 months to finalize but it is gratifying to note that we have been able to finish most of the grunt work.

6. We gave a major push to the interfaith activities over the last two years. The attendance to the World Parliament of Religions by the JAINA delegation was a watershed event. We funded this project with \$15,000 from general funds, drew delegates from UK and India, formed a Unified Jain Group and put on a good performance with one voice. I personally stayed with the delegation at Barcelona for 8 days and participated fully. After the success of this event, JAINA started working closely with other interfaith groups such as Religions for Peace in USA and sharing the message of Lord Mahavir with the mainstream America.

7. I brought in new blood by recruiting four new professionals who are experts in their fields into JAINA and assigned them to three new committees: Legal Advisory Committee, Media & Public Relations Committee and Planned Giving Committee. We have made use of the Legal Advisory Committee

several times over the last year or so; allowing us to handle legal issues more effectively. In the past, many of us tried to be our own lawyers! A very dangerous practice in the modern world. Media & Public Relations Committee has raised JAINA's visibility in the press as well as in the influential circles, which we have found to be very beneficial. To give you a concrete example, we would not have been able to get visa for Rakeshbhai Zaveri without the help from this committee. Planned Giving Committee has a huge potential to make JAINA financially strong on a long-term basis.

8. We revamped the JAINA website completely. It is dynamic and more attractive, informative, educational and effective. I decided that for this most important tool to foster unity, we could no longer depend on voluntary efforts. We needed a professional touch and needed to spend some money. Now you can log on to jaina.org and see the result. Infrastructure is in place to develop it further.

9. JAINA has added 3 more Jain centers on our roster during the last two years. They are Greater Binghamton Jain Sangh, Atlantic Jain Sangh, and Delaware Jain Sangh.

10. We formed a new committee called Exhibition Committee. JAINA's successful booth at Barcelona successfully encouraged us to create infrastructure to set up booths at other locations. We plan to create long term display materials instead of reinventing the wheel every time. We had a booth at 2005 Convention and will keep doing it where appropriate.

11. We wholeheartedly supported the Ahimsa Center chaired by Prof. Tara Sethia of California State University (Pamona) by our financial contribution and by becoming a charter member.

12. The Jivdaya Committee became very active under the leadership of Pramodaben Chitrabhanu. She raised substantial funds and became more pro-active for the cause.

13. JAINA supported the initiative taken by the Jain Center of Greater Boston for publishing a revised edition of JAIN Directory and provided them with the JAINA database. We also printed their message in JAINA Spectrum and Jain Digest regularly and encouraged their efforts all along.

14. I am especially proud of another committee called "Education Committee" that published more books during the last 2 years. These books have now earned international recognition.

15. We were successful in convincing many Jain centers to channel their funds raised for the victims of Tsunami tragedy through JAINA. This will enable JAINA to build a school Andaman Island in the near future.

16. Because of the changing needs, we eliminated Temple Guidelines Committee and replaced it with another committee called Jain Centers Resource Committee. This committee has made an excellent beginning (Refer to the last issue of Jain Digest). We expect it to be a major source of information and guidance for any Jain Center who is interested in building a temple.

17. We brought in a young and energetic leader to lead the Long Range Planning right after I assumed the Presidency. His work has convinced many JAINA leaders to start discussing long-term problems faced by our community. It is gratifying to note the Dr. Deepak Jain of Kellogg Business School has taken interest in this topic and was kind enough to hold a conference in Chicago recently and will continue to advise us in the future.

18. We ran into a tricky problem at Niagara Falls when we discovered that the local Jain community was about to create a sectarian temple unintentionally. We convinced the people about the advisability of having a non-sectarian temple and they graciously agreed. Some individuals were a bit uncomfortable with JAINA's involvement. However in the final analysis, facts prevailed and most of the people including the local leadership were very satisfied with the outcome.

19. There was an old dispute among NJ representatives, YJA and NJ Jain Sangh about the use of surplus funds from the 2002 YJA convention held in NJ. I got involved personally, talked to the parties concerned and was able to settle the dispute to the satisfaction of every one concerned.

20. I spent 8 days in Ladnu in Jan. 2005, met with Acharya Mahapragyaji and his disciples as well as the leaders of Viswa Bharati Institute and established long-term relationship. I expect this relationship to blossom-going forward and prove beneficial to both.

21. I have laid the groundwork for the Senior Housing Project. I believe that it is going to pick up momentum within a very near future. We established contacts with several interested parties and a solid project is going to emerge before too long.

22. With the help of several individuals, I initiated the Unity Declaration and Pledge drive and took it to the 2005 Convention floor. I expect it to find worldwide support as the message reaches to the main stream Jain community.

23. JAINA is better off financially now because of many changes I made in the areas of accounting and finance over the last few years. Being a financial professional myself, I was able to contribute a lot to the JAINA Accounting and Convention Budgeting processes. I generated a sizeable surplus from 2003 convention (first time in the history of JAINA) and then, more importantly, used the money prudently during my presidency.

Running a large and complex organization like JAINA is not a one person's job. To run it successfully for any length of time requires help and co-operation from many people. I was blessed with high quality volunteers i.e. members of Executive Committee, members of over 40 committees, and many others. I am very grateful to them all because I honestly feel that I would not have achieved much without their dedication and hard work. I hope we have made a lasting imprint on JAINA that will keep it moving and growing for years for the benefit our community.

## JAINA COMMITTEES

### ACADEMIC LIAISON

This new committee was formed in March 2004 to create liaison with academic institutions in North America (museums, libraries, schools and colleges) to expand the scope of Jain studies.

As a first project we supported formation of Ahimsa Center at California State Polytechnic University at Pomona, California under the leadership of Prof. Tara Sethia. The center's objective is to establish classes in Ahimsa philosophy in daily lives at the University. It also plans to create workshops and develop curriculum for K1-K12 schools working with teachers so that Ahimsa is promoted in daily life.

Several other programs being looked at are programs at Stanford University and Univ. of Pennsylvania. We are in the process of cataloging Jain studies in North America.

*Girish P. Shah, Chairman*

### CALENDAR & MINI-LIBRARY

This was envisioned as a way of preserving the past and bringing our rich heritage to Jains in North America. The annual JAINA Calendar has been freely distributed to over 11,000 Jain families across North America and other parts of the world for the last six years. Since the year 2000, we have received over 1/4 Million Dollars in donations and mailed over 50,000 Calendars and 4,000 Mini-Library Book sets. This has enabled the JAINA Calendar and the JAINA Mini-Library to grow in size, detail and scope of coverage due to the generous response and valuable suggestions received from thousands of families.

- The JAINA Calendars has helped to take its readers over thousands of years and miles back to the rich history of Jain Arts and Architecture. Monthly pages includes pictures of architecturally and historically important Jain Temples, Tirths, Cave Temples, Mountain Carvings, Mana-Stambhas (Towers), depict the richness and vastness of Jain culture across the Indian Sub-Continent, as well as establishing the Jain religion as one of the most ancient. The monthly dates shows us the American, Indian, Jain and Hindu Holidays. We can see at a glance the Jain Tithi's and our Tirthankaras Janm and Moksha days. It also includes images of authentic Jain scriptures, mantras, shlokas, and sayings.

- The JAINA Calendars also keeps our community informed about JAINA, its Objectives, and its many

Publications. All the JAIN Affiliate Centers and Committees are listed with their Presidents' name and contact information.

- This JAINA Calendar & Mini-Library project has helped us to enhance the image of JAINA and the Jains of North America as an institution working to preserve and promote the Jain heritage in the Western world. In addition, it reminds us to pass on our great and ancient culture to our next generation.

*Rajeev Pandya, Chairman*

## CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

Constitution update and revision committee has been working for almost a year and had many conference calls and e-mails. We have come to revising the updates, which are almost ready to be sent to executive committee, and after its approval by executive committee it will be sent to all directors for ratification.

*Manibhai Mehta, Chairman*

## GOVT. & INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS RELATIONS

Purpose: To interact with US @ Indian Govt. On behalf of JAINA to benefit Jain community of N. America as well as People of India. To represent JAINA at International Organizations.

Achievements: 1. Successfully maintain Registration of JAINA with US and Indian Govt.  
2. Established relationship with World Jain Confederation and worked with them on many fronts.

*Dhiraj Shah M. D., Chairman*

## INTERFAITH

The current Interfaith committee has been effective since October 2003

1. Established core Interfaith committee
2. Successful programs in the Parliament of World's Religions in Barcelona, Spain
3. Unified programs with Jains from US, UK & India as well as monks and nuns from various sects.
4. Posters for Exhibition: ready for use by any center.
5. "Jainism" flyer ready for use by any Jain Center.
6. Presentation on Jainism and Environment ready for use by any Jain Center (Power Point Presentation)
7. Established close working relationship with JAINA Education Committee critical to design well coordinated information flyers, literature and presentations.
8. Interfaith news items increasingly sent to JAINA Spectrum and Jain Digest.

*Arvind Vora, Chairman*

## JAIN CENTER RESOURCE

Jain Center Resource Committee (JCRC) was formed in Oct 2004. The committee members are as under:

1. Nitin Shah from Southern California - Chairman
2. Naresh Shah from New York
3. Ravindra Kobawala from Chicago
4. Jitendra Shah from Northern California
5. Niranjana Humbad from Detroit
6. Uday Jain from Houston

The committee has so far discussed various issues and was able to put together temple process guidelines that are available on JAINA's website. The guidelines will be very useful to the member centers to start a new center or to expand their existing centers.

I have received calls from various centers for different types of help. I have provided help to what ever extent possible. I will like to mention specifically about Peoria (less than 10 Jain families), Illinois I was very privileged and honored to be able to work with Peoria Center's great endeavor of placing a Jain Tirthankar Pratima in a Hindu-Jain temple.

Please feel free to contact us for any question about temple.

*Nitin Shah, Chairman*

## JAIN DIGEST LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Mission and Stated goal of the committee is to increase life membership of Jain Digest and see that each and every Jain family in North America gets a copy of Jain Digest. Main goal is to update the JD mailing list.

This committee's long-term goal is to increase the awareness of JD, increase the life membership of JD and find other sources of revenue to make it self-sufficient.

We still have resources available but we sure can use more resources. We need help of all committee members to bring awareness of JD in their community and help us to increase life membership and try to get some advertisements for JD to reduce the cost of publication.

In my opinion this committee can create a committee to bring advertisements for JD to offset the publication cost. Jain convention board needs to think about charging \$5 to \$10 per registration to offset the cost of JD publication.

*Keerti Shah, Chairman*

## JAIN NETWORK FORUM (JNF)

JNF provides networking and matrimonial opportunity to candidates in USA and all over the world. JNF online is simplified database and search engine with complete profile of candidates. Major achievements since inception : A much needed online service from JAINA. It is kept alive after 2001 Jain convention

and reused by Jaina 2003 convention. In addition we have added more than 80 candidates outside of conventions. We have registered over 50 candidates in last 2 years. Recently updating status of more than 500 candidates in our database.

*Sunil Jain, Chairperson*

## RITUAL COMMITTEE:

Purpose of this committee is to help ,train and guide local centers in performing JAIN rituals according to Jain scriptures. Guide to perform all types of JAIN puja including PRATISH-TA ceremony and MAHA PUJANS. This committee also helps to prepare local persons to perform VIDHI BY GUIDING AND PROVIDING materials. we have performed pratishtha and maha pujans at Las Vegas, Houston, Wichita(Kansas) ,Niagara falls(Ontario), Tulsa(Ok).

*Naresh Shah, Chairperson*

## JAINA BOOK STORE:

During the last year JAINA Book store sent free of cost to each of the center TEERTH DARSHAN a 3 volume Encyclopedia of all the Teerths in India. This colorful set can be a valuable asset to the center's library. Additionally, JAINA BOOK STORE

- Continues to provide Jain religious books and tapes to patrons at cost
- shipped over 250 orders
- Added 10 new titles in last two years (program to date 25 titles)

*Rohit Doshi, Chairperson*

## JAINA EDUCATION

The following summarizes the Activity of past two years.

- 13 of 14 Pāthashālā Education items (Books, CD, and Game) are complete and published (June 2005)
- 33 Jain Centers have Pāthashālā and they have purchased \$50,000 Jaina Education material
- Short description of each Jaina Education Material
- Jain Dictionary is created for consistence spelling
- Simplified Diacritical Mark system is implemented
- Jain Pāthashālā Teachers and Educators e-Group is created.
- Jain Pāthashālā Teachers Conference in Los Angeles in 2001
- One Stop Station for all Jaina Education Information:
- Website - [www.jaina.org](http://www.jaina.org) - Education Committee - Education Material Folder
- [http://www.jaina.org/educationcommittee/education\\_material/\\$\\$\\$PathashalaBooks/](http://www.jaina.org/educationcommittee/education_material/$$$PathashalaBooks/)
- All Jaina Education Books (published and unpublished in pdf ) for your review and use

## Financial Status:

The education committee has received \$50,000 as an advance from thirty supporting centers and \$10,000 in contribution from various individuals. So far it has supplied about \$53,000 of Pāthashālā books to the supporting centers. It has about \$10,000 in books inventory and it has only \$7000 cash left in JAINA education committee account.

The estimated publishing and distribution cost of the remaining JAINA education material is approximately \$60,000. We also need to maintain two years of inventory of all education books. Hence we estimate that at a minimum, the Education Committee should have \$80,000 in reserve support this project. We need contribution from individuals as well as from various Jain centers to build the reserve of \$80,000.

Jaina education committee has built a strong team of Jain Pāthashālā educators, editors, and distributors. It has produced good quality Pāthashālā education material, which is recognized not only in USA and Canada but also worldwide.

The JAINA education material is not copy righted material. You are free to make copies and we request you to distribute it on a cost / non-profit basis. If you have any comments or suggestions please let us know.

*Pravin K. Shah, Chairperson*

## EXHIBITION

This committee was formed in year 2005. The purpose of this committee is to spread Jain principles between Jain as well as Non-Jain communities through attractive exhibitions.

Target: Jain centers, schools, libraries, and universities across North America. Support Interfaith, educational and outreach activities of other committees, prepare supplemental brochures, booklets, and multi-media presentations promoting Jainism.

Achievements: Created a 16 panel Jain exhibition that was displayed at the Parliament of the World's religions, Barcelona, Spain. This exhibition is targeted for interfaith audience. The exhibition has since been displayed at various interfaith as well as Jain Center events throughout the country and is available at the cost of two way shipping.

A large, 70 panel Exhibition is being designed and produced for the JAINA Convention July '05

Theme: "UNDERSTANDING JAIN WAY OF LIFE"

### Exhibition Highlights

- Displays on Jain history, culture, scholars and scriptures, it's contribution to various fields of science and literature.
- Displays on Jain philosophy and its applications
- Displays on Jain art, architecture and temples
- Displays on current trends in Jainism including JAINA, its activities and it's accomplishments
- Various Quotations from Jainism
- Replica of original Jain Art on fabric.

*Sudhir Shah, Chairperson*

The JAINA/JCSC National Library is located in Jain Center of Southern California (JCSC) in Buena Park near Los Angeles.

All books in Gujarati, Hindi, English and Sanskrit have been catalogued. We recently received 353 books donated by Jain Vishva Bharati, Ladnun bringing the total number of books to approximately 6,000.

To fulfill the aim of making the library collection available to any interested member in the United States and Canada, a comprehensive list of the library books is available on the internet at [www.jaincenter.net](http://www.jaincenter.net). We encountered a problem with LibrarySoft software in updating the old web list with the latest complete list of books in all languages. It should be resolved soon.

Any interested member can search the books by title or 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 10 days. The recipient will be responsible for returning it to the library.

The library will be moved in July 2005 to the adjoining new Cultural Complex in order to renovate the current facility. We humbly request donations for the library upkeep.

*Ramesh Shah, Chairperson*

## JAINA PUBLIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL

Purpose:

- Educate the North American public about Jainism, culture and heritage.
- Educate the Jain American community about our civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights; and work to protect and promote these rights.
- Develop resources and provide services to empower the community to fully realize and enjoy the aforementioned rights.

Members:

Sushil Jain - MD Coordinator

Manoj Dharamsi - VA,

Anant K. Jain - TX

Mamta Shaha - NY

Gunvant (Gary) Shah - NY

Gabriel Figueroa - TX

Sudhir K. Shah - CT

Manoj K. Jain - TN

Amar Salgia - CA

Dilip K. Bobra - AZ

Accomplishments since inception:

- Wrote letters to many newspapers and magazines correcting myths and misinformation published regarding Jainism in various media publications. Took the opportunity to educate media regarding Jainism and established local points of contact to avoid misinformation.
- Led a multi-pronged protest against Sun micro Systems in their three attempts to use Jain as their product exclusive trademark in US Patent office. We were able to prevent this from occurring.

- Drafted several policy statements for delivery in national media. (i.e. JAINA Code of ethics & Conduct, Faith based Charity, Gun control, Racial Profiling, Affirmative action).

- Representing JAINA at Interfaith Conference and Interfaith Alliance of DC.

- Represented JAINA at The White House conference on "Faith-Based & Community Initiatives" as well as "Caring for ill and Dying while respecting one's Faith".

- Arranged all phases of Jain Prayer in the U.S. Congress in May 2001. In 2000 and 2001 organized Jain prayer at Maryland General Assembly as well as Jain Pilgrimage exhibit at Washington Smithsonian Museum. Now working on Jain Prayer in U.S. Senate waiting for scheduling.

Accomplishments since July 2003:

- Organizing Partner with George Washington University Interfaith Service (GWIS) Foundation in organizing two conferences:

- Compelled to Relationship: What does your scriptures say about it?

- Religious Accommodation in Care of ill and dying?

- Acquired "Letter from President Bush" for Ahinsa Day 2003.

- Presented qualification and documents requirements for "R" visa vs. visitor visa - JAINA meeting Oct 2003.

- Assisted in Development of JAINA exhibit - Sudhir Shah, Dilip Bobra

- Development of JAINA Code of Ethics and Conducts draft - Sushil Jain/ Mamta Shaha

- Organized Strategic development conference in partnership with Long Range Planning committee at Kellogg Institute of Management - Sushil, Sunit and Manoj Jain

*Sushil Jain, M.D. Chairperson*

## JAINA PUBLICATION

1. Publication of Children Books from Jr. KG to 2nd Standard in Association with Bhartiya Jain Sanghatana
2. Free Distribution of above books in North America
3. Publication of English Songs for children from Jr. KG to 2nd Standard in Association with Bhartiya Jain Sanghatana
4. Free Distribution of above songs in North America
5. Preparation of Jain Games - can be played in Computer
6. Free Distribution of above games in North America
7. Publication of Animated stories and songs on Jain culture
8. Free Distribution of above stories and songs
9. Work in progress for Jain Books for children from Standard 3rd till early college levels.

*Dr. Prem Gada, Chairperson*

## JIVDAYA

2004-2005 was a year when Jivdaya committee really became active and put in practice our core belief. We received donations to JIVDAYA from twenty different centers so that we could support animal shelters and panjarapols. We joined hands with The Vegetarian Society of Bombay (Compassion for Life) to channel collected funds to small panjarapols in remote parts who may not have facilities to accept foreign funds. Now anyone in North America can designate his or her favorite animal shelter to receive their donation and our committee will work with that charity. Last year we distributed \$25,000 to 14 animal shelters in India and this year our goal is to double our collection.

*Pramodaben Chitrabhanu, Chairperson*

## MEDIA / PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Media and Public Relations Committee came into existence primarily in 2004. Our objectives are to represent JAINA in the best possible way to the outside world and to interact with various media outlets to ensure coverage of JAINA's events in the media. During 2004, the Media and Public Relations committee has made a concerted effort to highlight every newsworthy event in the media. Events like JAINA medical camps; Ahimsa Center, Barcelona Conference, etc have generally been covered nicely by the media. We have established a rapport with various media outlets and are gradually educating them about JAINA's objectives and activities. A similar effort has also been initiated in other areas. For example, educating and informing the members of the US Congress about JAINA and Jainism. We will continue to put the best foot forward and publicize JAINA's newsworthy activities on a regular basis to the outside world.

We are involved in the planning of JAINA Convention 2005 and helping with Marketing/Public Relations tasks.

*Nitin Talsania, Chairperson*

## JAINA MEMBERSHIP

**Purpose:** To strengthen JAINA by bringing Jain families across North America under the umbrella of JAINA through their Jain Centers.

**Major achievements since inception:**

- Encouraged many small Jain groups and associations to become a member of JAINA.
- Promoted JAINA by explaining numerous benefits of becoming a member association of JAINA.
- Promoted individual subcommittees of JAINA, e.g. Education, MIS, Scholar Visitation, etc.
- Assisted a number of Jain study groups and associations through the membership application process.
- Developed simplified documentation to facilitate faster approval of new applications.

- Achievements of the last two years:
- Added three new Jain Centers to the JAINA network, bringing the total strength to 65 member associations.

*Kamlesh Shah, Chairman:*

## MARRIAGE INFORMATION SERVICE

Marriage Information Service was promoted at the Toronto Convention of JAINA in July 1989. I took over the work of MIS from Mr. F. J. Dalal, from end of 1993.

The years 2003, 2004 and current year have been hectic with the growth and rising interest of the community as the number of young adults of marriageable age is growing rapidly. Approximately 1625 candidates' information is stored in MIS Database, out of which approx. 366 ads were published during the last two years. These are mostly new registrants.

So far about 400 boys and girls married / engaged with the help of MIS. This figure might be more than this as we do not get feedback from the registrants after they are married / engaged. With our own net-work we could get this figure.

More and more Jains are taking interest in Matrimonial ads published in Jain Digest and by also contacting MIS for more information and requesting to provide suitable leads.

**Objective:**

- Jains to marry Jains.
- Institutions of MARRIAGE and FAMILY to continue to be the foundation of cultural values of the society-in-formation and taking roots outside India.
- Candidates to be provided with wider choices for compatible, durable and happy marriages.
- Creating awareness about the selection process in "Marriage" among the Jain community through scientific technique of Communication and Counseling based on Information.

*Hasmukh M. Shah, Chairperson*

## NORTH AMERICAN JAIN HISTORY

This committee was established in Summer of 2004 to write the History of Jains in North America. It is believed that the Jains arrived to North America (NA) over 100 years ago. As population of Jains increased, it led to establishment of Jain Centers and JAINA. This increased the awareness and spread of Jainism in NA.

- Questionnaire and related information was developed and sent to all Jain Centers in NA.
- Addresses of Jain Centers were established with the help of Jaina.
- Contact with all Jain Centers were established.
- Packages of questionnaires were sent out electronically as well as by mail.
- History article appeared in the Jain Digest to

increase the awareness of the Project

- Continuous follow up is made to gather information.
- Todate about a dozen Centers have sent history of their Centers.

*Jasvant Mehta, Chairperson*

#### PATRON PROGRAM

• In the fall of 2003, when the patron program concept was reintroduced, one of our primary goals was to effectively bring about improved communications between JAINA and the Jain Centers. From all indications, great strides have been made towards accomplishing this.

• As a result of our efforts during this campaign, we have enrolled fifty-seven (57) new patrons of different rankings.

• With the upcoming program, we hope to receive the input of yourself as well as the Directors and Presidents of the individual nationwide Jain centers. On this basis, our intentions are to prepare a new submission to further our goals for this year.

• As per the provisions of the 2003 program, we have now provided each Grand and Gold Patron with a copy of the Teerth Darshan Book. At the time of the next convention, we anticipate providing this benefit to program enrollees of all ranks.

*Udai Jain, Chairperson*

#### PILGRIMAGE

In January 2005 the Pilgrimage Committee organized a pilgrimage to Shri Sametshikarji and nearby Teerths. Gurudev Shri Chitrabhanuji and Pramodaben along with their ten American students also joined. This was the sixth JAINA yatra and so far combined total of 500 North American Jains have participated in various Yatras. For 2006 the Pilgrimage Committee is planning the yatra of south India.

*Dilip V. Shah, Chairperson*

#### PLANNED GIVING

The goals of this committee are:

1. To educate and provide information to our members about the benefits of "GIVING".
2. Also to inform our members about ways to minimize Income Taxes, Capital Gain Taxes, and Estate Taxes, while passing on their long saved assets to their children, grand children and future generations as well as helping JAINA and Jain Centers become financially stronger and achieve their long term goals.

We now have a committee of four professionals who have started working on marketing material and are currently work-

ing on power point presentations regarding the topics listed above.

Since the committee has just recently been formed, we will report our achievements toward the end of this year.

*Yogesh Kamdar, Chairperson*

#### SCHOLARS VISITATION

Purpose: To help all Jain centers in North America celebrate Paryushana/ Das Laxana / Mahaveer Jayanti.

Help coordinate lectures of Jain scholars at all of our centers. Develop and guide local scholars. Help and coordinate temple Sthapana and develop sense of unity among Jains in North America.

Major achievements since inception:

- Pioneered Scheduling scholars lectures starting 1978, 3 years before JAINA was formed (1981)
- One of the earliest committees in JAINA whose worked inspired many people.
- Working with fourteen monks and seventy scholars to propagate Jain Dharma.
- Helped in development of more than thirty North American scholars.
- Helped temple sthapana at Jain centers and at Siddhachalam.
- Network of eighty committee members scattered around north America helping Jain community .

Achievements of last two years:

1. Helped JAINA conventions at Cincinnati and San Francisco
2. Develop database for all JAINA scholars articles, digital photos, full biodata (one page), short biodata (8-9 Lines). and E-mail addresses.
3. Develop new local scholars for JAINA , and YJA/YJP(JAINA) conventions.

*Nirmal Dosi, Chairperson*

#### SENIOR HOUSING

It's hard to believe that many of us Jains having been living in the states for over 40 years. Over the years we have prospered personally and professionally. While there is no doubt that we have certainly earned our passage into retirement, we also have to think about where we want to live. JAINA has recognized the need for a retirement facility for our community and as a result has formed a Senior Housing Committee to facilitate this important transition.

Our task began by asking our fellow Jains what they desired in their ideal retirement community. Before sharing results of our survey, I'd like to preface by letting you know that unfortunately, due to a virus that hit the JAINA HQ computer, all E-mail survey responses were lost. We were, however, able to salvage and incorporate all responses received via traditional mail. The results below reflect those responses.

- Over 50% of the respondents preferred a location near a city of medium size. Florida rose to the top of the list of ideal states, followed by California and then Texas.

- Many of us are almost ready to retire! Most are planning to move into a retirement community within next four years and preferred a 1,200 to 1,800 Sq.ft. condo/townhouse with 2 to 3 bedrooms. Ideal price range was \$100,000 to \$250,000 with a cap of \$300,000.

- Amenities are key to this project. A majority of respondents prefer a community dining hall with a kitchen, along with a medical facility and shopping center. Close to a third of us would like to have 24-hour nursing assistance in the vicinity of our living space. And of course we will be sure to have a Jain Temple and a community hall on the premises. If needed, we may share the development with a Hindu community to provide a more affordable option.

Encouraging to note that the tremendous efforts undertaken by the JAINA Senior Housing are highlighted within the cover story in the May 20th edition of India Abroad's "Twilight in America" Magazine (page M3). Great press for an even greater project! We look forward to sharing more details as this plan progresses. In the meantime, enjoy your path to retirement!

At this point, all options for suitable sites are being closely explored and evaluated. As we continue to move this very important project forward, we welcome your ideas, suggestions and comments. In addition, if you would like to invest/donate, please contact Guvant Shah at 732-246-4030 or via email at profgaryshah@yahoo.com

*Mr. Guvant Shah, Chairman*

## TEERTHODHAR

Teerthodhar Committee of JAINA had sponsored various camps thru Shri Navkar Sarvar Kendra of Ahmedabad during the 2nd month of Shravan of Samvat year 2060. During month of August, they visited several upshrays at Sanad, Limbdi, Rajkot, Ratanpar, Joravarnagar, Wadhvan, Surendranagar, Viramgam, Mandal, Sankeshwar, Harij, Patan, Chanasama, Mehsana, Visnagar, Vijapur, Mahudi, Kalol, Surat, Borsad and Khambhat. They treated and gave medicine to 440. They also went to Palitana. On the way to Palitana on 26/08/04, they had opportunity to serve Sadhu and Sadhviji Bhagvant, 2 at Kalikund Tirth, 3 at Dhandhuka Tirth, 3 at Ayodhyapuram Tirth, 3 at Vallabhipur Tirth & 6 at Sihor Tirth.

There were about 1200 Sadhu and Sadhviji Bhagvant at Palitana. Hence 2 days camp were held at Palitana. Next day, 138th Ayurvedic Camp was inaugurated near Jambhu Dhvip, in presence of Acharya Bhagwant. 81 Sadhu and Sadhviji Bhagwant were given Ayurvedic Medicines and 59 Sadhviji Bhagwant were treated by our hadvaiddben (Orthopedic treatment). A camp was held at Paach Bunglow Dharamshala in Palitana, where they served 31 Sadhu and Sadhviji Bhagwant for Ayurvedic treatment and 14 Sadhviji for Orthopedic treatment. In addition to Ayurvedic Medicine, they also provided other

Upkaran like hot water bag, pain crash tube, balm, jatyadi-malaam, knee cap, mosquito net, soap for loachen, waist belt for back problem and many other items.

An Eye Check Up Camp was held at Palitana during the same time. During the current period we had opportunity to serve 887 Sadhu and Sadhviji Bhagwant in and around Ahmedabad. 230 Sadhu and Sadhviji Bhagwant had their eyes checked up and were given pair of glasses.

*Kirit Daftary, Chairman*

## V. R. GANDHI SCHOLARSHIP

1. Objective/Purpose: This scholarship was established by JAINA to promote/encourage studies in Jainism, to spread Bhagwan Mahavir's message, a lifetime goal of Shri Virchand Raghavji Gandhi and thereby to honour Shri V.R. Gandhi and commemorate the centenary of the great historical event of the first ever organized Parliament of World Religions held in 1893 at Chicago, U.S.A. where he attended it as a representative of the Jain Religion.

It is awarded to students and Sadhus- Sadhvis doing M.A., M.Phil, Ph.D in Jain Literature, Philosophy, Sculpture, Temple architecture, etc. at recognized institutions and Universities. To celebrate his death centenary in 2001, a book 'Jyotirdharni Jivan Gatha', a Gujarati edition about his life story by P.R. Shah and an English version book titled "Glimpses of Jainism and Biography of Forgotten Hero Shri Virchand Raghavji Gandhi" by the same author were published and distributed free at VRG booths at 2001 and 2003 JAINA Conventions respectively and thereafter at different Jain Centers, Pathshalas. Books were also sent out Universities and Institutions offering studies in Jainism in India.

A web site [www.jaina.org/VRG](http://www.jaina.org/VRG) Committee provides complete information about the Brochure, Application Forms, VRG rare literature etc.

Since year 2001, the death centenary year of VRG and 2600th Birth Year of Bhagwan Mahavir India Subcommittee is publishing about award of this scholarship in national newspapers and in almost all Jain publications and mailing out prescribed application forms to institutions offering advance and research studies in Jainism.

Nonrefundable 18 scholarships up to Rs. 15,000 were awarded so far to students studying (Ph.D., M.A., and M.Phil) in Jainism. This year advertisement has been despatched to 50 [English, Hindi and Gujarati] publications and 82 different Jain publications all over India.

*Pravin C. Shah Chair Person*

## WEB SITE COMMITTEE

During last 12 months JAINA's website [www.jaina.org](http://www.jaina.org) has undergone a complete transformation. The new design is user friendly, dynamic, attractive and consists of complete infor-

mation of JAINA news and activities. Through this site one can access list of officers, directors, centers and committees. One can also access JAIN DIGEST, JAINA SPECTRUM, JAINA Calendar, YJA, YJP or Pathshala material from our site. This website will serve as a tool to unify the Jain community in North America. Recently a very powerful "forum" has been added where any Jain topic or concerns can be discussed.

*Dilip V Shah, Chairperson*

## WHEEL OF HOPE

In last 6 months, a number of encouraging and greater visionary developments have taken place and more resources are opening up to help poor and sick of our motherland.

1. Visit to Kenya & Burundi at request of Ratna Nidhi Charitable Trust and Local Jain Sanghs of E. Africa during the last week of June 2004; Established very valuable contacts in East Africa for future expansion of JAINA's W.O.H. Program 'Netra Jyoti Pariwar' of Deesa' (Dr. Bhansali & Dr. Bipin Parikh) performed 1,000 eye surgeries for African patients.

2. RECOGNITION of JAINA's CONTRIBUTION

a. BIDADA Sarvodaya Trust has agreed to inscribe JAINA's name permanently on a plaque on one of the buildings.

b. Jhatakia Eye Hospital, Gondal has agreed to inscribe JAINA's name on one of the rooms in the hospital.

c. Hira-Mongi-Navneet Hospital, Mulund has mailed us a appreciation Certificate.

3. Kiritbhai, Dr. Mamata Shaha and Anopbhai have worked very, very hard to develop NEW GUIDELINES for W-O-H Program to be more effective and less controversial.

Mahendra Mehta of Ratna Nidhi Trust has agreed to work with JAINA for importing Charitable Hospital Eqpt. but he will help us to develop workable guidelines which will work under New Environment of Govt. of INDIA.

4. In coordination with Jain Center of Southern CA. BIDADA Sarvodaya Trust, has started promoting medical camps for 2005. BIDADA has always appreciated efforts of JAINA to recruit more doctors, volunteers which has resulted in more financial donations.

*Ramesh P. Shah, Chairperson*

## WORLD COMMUNITY SERVICES

The humanitarian activities carried out by the World Community Service of JAINA, as follows:

- In 1991, WCS was there to help the victims of earthquake in Uttar Kashi, UP as the victims were dying due to cold weather. In the same year, when there was a drought in Gujarat, WCS was there to feed the animals and thus prevent them from being sent to the butcher's block.

- In 1992, WCS sent an ambulance to Bahubali, Maharashtra and organized a medical camp in Kutch, Gujarat.

WCS recruited 40 doctors and volunteers to assist at the camp. At the camp, JAINA treated 19,645 patients and the entire cost of the camp was borne by WCS. Our efforts earned us honor from 30 different institutions, including the Speaker of the Parliament of India as well as Health Minister of India.

- In 1993, when a devastating earthquake jolted the Lathur district of Maharashtra, JAINA was there to distribute basic necessities such as food and clothing to the victims. We also built a Jain Nagar at the village of Kwatha with 55 houses and a primary school. WCS, with the help of BJS, also adopted 1500 orphans, victims of the quake.

- In 1994, when an earthquake struck Northridge, CA, WCS was there to help. In the same year, when Ujjain, Rajasthan needed an anesthesia machine, WCS provided one with the help of Dr. Neelam Patel.

- In 1995, when civil war broke out in Rwanda, WCS was there to help the refugees through the American Red Cross. For our contributions, the American Red Cross gave us an Institution of the Year award. In that year, we also sent a phaco emulsification machine for cataract operations to Gondal, India. WCS also established a women's medical center in tribal area of Gujarat where the women in that region had no access to medical care.

- In 1996, WCS sent 20,000 pounds of used clothes to Bombay to be distributed to the needy in India. We sent computers and a printer to a girl's high school in Kutch. We also started a free medical dispensary in Vasai, Gujarat.

- At this point, due to all of our humanitarian activities, JAINA was recognized by the United States Agency for International Development as well as by the Ministry of Welfare of the Indian Government. We were provided registration under the Indo-US bilateral agreement of 1966. JAINA is only the 2nd Institution out of 1500 Indian American Institutions to receive such an honor.

In 1997, mammography machine was sent to Maru Hospital, Bombay, for early detection of breast cancer.

- In 1998, when the cyclone hit Kandla and killed thousands of people and destroyed hundreds of villages, WCS adopted two villages, Ragha and Shekhdadia and rebuilt them.

- In 1999, when Kosovo was facing refugee problems due to civil war, WCS contributed \$10,000 to the United Nations for their humanitarian work. In the same year, Dr. Pravin Mehta donated stress test machine to a hospital in Bhuj-Kutch through WCS. Dr. Dilip Patel provided three phaco emulsification machines for a hospital in Bihar through WCS. Dr. P. K. Parikh donated endoscopy equipment to a hospital in Bhuj through WCS.

- WCS contributed \$22,000 to rebuild a small village in Orissa destroyed by the cyclone, which hit the coastal area of Orissa in October 1999. These houses were handed over to the families of victims on January 23, 2001.

- In 2000, WCS sent six tons of milk powder to help children, victims of drought in Gujarat and Rajasthan. WCS also sent a mammography machine to Leva Patel Diagnostic Center in Bhuj for early detection of breast cancer.

- In January 26, 2001 when a massive earthquake in Gujarat killed over 30,000 people, injured 300,000 people and

left three million people homeless, JAINA was there. WCS has rehabilitated 250 families who lost everything and had no source of income, WCS built a township, namely Vardhman Nagar, near Bhujodi, Kutch - 6.3 kilometers to the East of Bhuj. The township includes 250 houses (each unit comprising 367 square feet), a school (primary, middle, and high school will be included), a library, a community center, a medical clinic, and a computer and science center. WCS has built primary and middle school, library and community hall.

- World Community Service of JAINA helped earthquake victims of Morbi, Gujarat. People of Morbi have formed Sumatinath Nagar for two hundred earthquakes affected families and had requested help from WCS to rehabilitate this people and JAINA contributed \$30,000 to Sumatinath Nagar for the houses. This contribution helped at least 80 families, who were earthquake victims.

- In 2001 we have started the "World Trade Center Victim's Relief Fund. WCS has donated to New York fire fighters fund \$12,431

- In 2002 World Community Service of JAINA helped riot victims of Ahmedabad, Gujarat. JAINA had contributed more than \$1,000 to managing trustee Kumarpal Desai of Anukampa Trust Ahmedabad, Gujarat to help victims of communal riots.

- In 2003 purchased School Bus and Ambulance for Gujarat Earthquake victims.

- In 2004 helped 16 families of K.V.O. Nagar of Bhuj, victims of Gujarat earthquake by providing a grant of Rs.60,000 (sixty thousands) per family to build new houses.

- In 2005 WCS started Tsunami victim's fund. We are working with our local partner Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana from Pune, India. We are adopting one school in CFO Nallaha, Middle Andaman, comprising of 8+2 classrooms (6,300 Sq. ft.). Construction and set-up for the opening of the school would be completed by the end of May 2005 so that the students can resume their academic year during the 1st week of June 2005.

## YOUNG JAINS OF AMERICA

1. As a community service initiative, the Regional Coordinators took to organizing our second annual YJA H4H event. Teaming up with Habitat for Humanity (H4H), YJA sent motivated young people, in each of the six regions, to locations all around the United States. These youth put Ahimsa in Action by helping to build homes for the less fortunate.

2. Regional conferences were scheduled in each region to help foster close ties between Jain youth who live closer to

each other. The intimate setting of the regional conferences provides an excellent atmosphere to share ideas, ask questions and expound upon religious values with others.

3. One of the most useful tools of YJA is our website, [www.yja.org](http://www.yja.org). We made the content and the visuals more appealing and maintained it as a place for young people to come and explore by making the site more user friendly and interactive. We provided more educational content to the website with in-depth explanations on Paryushan, the life of Mahavir, meanings of Stavans, and a Jain Glossary.

4. By far, the biggest accomplishment this year is the sixth biennial YJA Convention from July 1-4, 2004 in Santa Clara, CA at the Santa Clara Westin hotel. We witnessed nearly 800 young Jains from all over North America, UK, Australia, Singapore, and India unite in the Bay Area, To See, To Know, and To Realize! Participants were enthralled by the various speakers such as the Samnijiis, Sadhviji Shilapiji, and our keynote speaker, Dr. Deepak Jain of the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University, to name a few.

*Ms. Nisha Jain*

## YOUNG JAIN PROFESSIONALS

1. Coordinated a variety of Local Programs throughout North America. (Networking dinners in NYC, DC, SF, Houston, Philadelphia; Bowling outing in NJ, Rafting trip in NY/NJ/PA, picnic in Bay Area, Holi beach outing in LA, etc.) Working on networking dinners in Toronto, Boston, and Chicago and a 'Contemporary Conversations in Jainism' discussion event in DC.

2. Planning the 7th annual YJP convention to be held in San Antonio, TX over Columbus Day weekend (Oct 8-11). This year's theme is 'Jainism: An Evolving Perspective' where our aim is to discuss how our views and practices of Jainism have changed over time.

3. Published two issues of "The New Jain", YJP's quarterly online newsletter. This year the newsletter adopted a completely redesigned format as well as added a "Dear Jain" advice column. The upcoming September issue is due shortly.

4. Supported and promoted Community Service events in North America and abroad. Upcoming events include a volunteer trip to Kutch, Gujarat in conjunction with KOJAIN, a volunteer service event at Children's Hospital in Birmingham, and fundraising for the Pawapuri School Project.

*Ms. Suchita Gala*

*We sow our thoughts, and we reap our actions;  
We sow our actions, and we reap our habits;  
We sow our habits, and we reap our characters;  
We sow our characters, and we reap our destiny.*

# JAINA DIRECTORS MEETING

## July 2nd, 2005, Santa Clara, CA

Summary of minutes of Annual Directors Meeting on Saturday, July 2, 2005 "JAINA Convention 2005" Santa Clara Convention Center, Santa Clara, CA 95054

There were nearly fifty EC members, Directors, Center Presidents, Committee chairs, Co-chairs, and guests were present (list attached).

1. Meeting started at 3:05 PM with Prayer by Ms. Pramodaben Chitrabhanu.

2. President's report: After a brief introduction by each attendee, Anop Vora thanked every one for coming and making this meeting a success. He offered many positive accolades in favor of each volunteer who helped to organize this convention. He commented that nearly all committees had filed annual progress reports. It is evident that there are hundreds of volunteers doing excellent work quietly and without fan fare under JAINA umbrella. He remarked that although there is so much work being done, yet many Jains in North America are not informed of JAINA activity. He recommended that in the next JAINA committee we make this a priority issue.

3. Secretary: Sushil Jain presented the minutes of Board of Directors meeting held in October at Niagara Falls, Canada. He e-mailed minutes to all directors a week ago as well as distributed copies for individuals to review. After brief comments Mr. Bipin Parikh proposed that they be approved. This was seconded by Gunvant Shah. Minutes were approved by all with minor corrections (Handout #1). He further remarked and recognized Mr. Kamlesh Amin for continuously working hard each day to help with administrative responsibility of many leaders. He is to be applauded for his devotion to duty for job well done.

4. Treasurer's report: Jit Turakhia mailed audited account reports to all directors in mid June; he distributed copies and presented a comprehensive report on accounts balance as of 30 June 2005. We have the following: Gen funds - \$56K, Patron Program - \$71K, 2005Conv fund - \$315K, Charitable trust - \$140K, Jain Digest fund - \$103K. It was suggested and agreed that treasurer will continue to prepare annual cash flow report. Sumati Shah proposed that the report be accepted; motion was seconded by Pramodaben and approved by all. (Handout #2). He reported that Mr. Dhiraj Shah resigned as JAINA USAID representative. He commented that this function should be coordinated by new treasurer.

5. Election Committee: Mr. Vinay Jain described the election procedure. He pointed out that three out of five committee members resigned for personal reason and recommended a resolution to appoint Mr. Prem Jain to add to election committee, making it a three member committee. After a brief discus-

sion, the resolution was proposed by Mr. Udai Jain, seconded by Mr. Kirit Daftary. The resolution was passed by simple majority. Further discussion revolved around the proposal that each candidate should be given the opportunity to appoint an observer when votes are being opened and counted. There was an extensively spirited discussion on this proposal regarding the role of observers and maintaining confidentiality. In this process, Executive committee forwarded its recommended resolution, and election committee's response to that resolution outlining its concerns regarding EC resolution. Both documents were read to all for consideration during deliberation. After an extensive deliberation following resolution was proposed. "Each candidate shall be given the opportunity to appoint an observer to observe the election process including counting ballots. The observer(s) shall abide by all rules and regulations set by election committee including maintaining confidentiality." Twenty four directors voted in favor, eleven opposed and five abstained. The motion was carried by simple majority. Mr. Vinay Jain, election committee and two observers started the vote count and one hour later reported the following: President: Mr. Kirit Daftary, 1st VP: Mr. Dilip V. Shah, Secretary: Ms. Lata Champsee, Treasurer: Mr. Pravin Mehta, VP Canada: Mr. Jasvant Mehta, VP West: Mr. Bipin A. Shah, VP Southwest: Mr. Udai Jain, VP Southeast: Deepika Dalal, VP Midwest: Ms. Ila Mehta, VP Northeast: Mr. Gunvant Shah.

6. Convention 2005 report: Mr. Kirit Daftary reported that so far there are 3200 registrations. He expects the registration to reach 3500. He gave highlights of program for each day and thanked JCNC for their outstanding support and volunteerism. He anticipates that JAINA will need financial support to achieve its goals for this convention.

7. Committee reports:

a. Education committee - Mr. Pravin K. Shah reported that all the publications (eight books) are published. Last year we sold nearly \$50K worth of books and have approximately \$70K worth of books on inventory. These books are sold to customers around the globe.

b. Senior Housing project - Mr. Gunvant Shah reported that he has several leads on land in Northern Florida. He felt that his committee needs to move fast due to the fact that the price of land is ever increasing. He requested information and support from all centers. (Handout # 3)

c. Interfaith Committee - Mr. Naresh Jain reported that JAINA has joined interfaith community especially Hindu community and partner with them to organize and support Dharma Conference at Rutgers University, NJ. He requested financial support from each organization. (Handout # 4).

d. JAINA history project - Mr. Ram Gada, on behalf of Chairman, requested each center to contribute and send their

center information as requested. The committee hopes to have this book in CD format by next year.

e. JAINA Spectrum- Mr. Dilip V. Shah commented and urged everyone to send material to him for publication.

f. JAIN Digest - Ms. Lata Champsee reported that the July issue is nearly ready. She will wait for convention report and pictures to be included this time rather than wait until September issue. In addition, if anyone has any report from their center, please send to her ASAP.

g. Public Affairs Council- Mr. Sushil Jain reported that, with regards to JAINA codes of Ethics and conducts, Ms. Mamta Shaha incorporated comments from directors and forwarded document to JAINA legal team. The Legal team has recommended that JAINA should appoint a five member ethics team to monitor and assist JAINA in this process. PAC recommends that next JAINA EC appoint Ethics team ASAP. (Handout) He also reported that Jains should monitor the U.S. Supreme Court Nominee and its process and try to understand the impact of appointing a conservative Judge on civil rights, racial discrimination, affirmative action, capital punishment, immigrant's rights, etc... He will send detailed document relating this topic to all Jain directors and Presidents in an effort to educate Jains on our civil rights. (Handout). He also read e-mail from Mr. Sulekh Jain on Jainism Study abroad program currently in progress, where eight students and two faculty of American origin are studying Jainism on various sites in India for eight weeks. Program thus far is very successful. He also read report from Mr. Prem Gada regarding launching of Jainism E-learning project.

h. Temple Guideline committee - Mr. Nitin Shah briefed the group on donations by automatic bank withdrawal. He outlined benefits and the process where we all can benefit.

i. Community planned giving- Mr. Yogesh Kamdar commented that while many people are planning retirement, forming trusts, life insurance but very few people think about charitable giving. This committee is putting together a web site and explains pros and cons of Charitable planned giving. Please take advantage of this plan and support.

j. V.R. Gandhi Scholarship- Mr. Pravin C. Shah presented a brief report on its activity in USA and India. He requested all to support this very worthy JAINA cause.

k. JAINA exhibit committee - Mr. Pravin K. Shah, on behalf of Sudhir Shah reported that nearly 70 exhibit panels were developed for display. These panels were reviewed by several spiritual leaders and are on display. The material cost was \$23K of which \$17K was collected. This exhibit is available to all for display and/or purchase.

l. YJP - Mr. Mayur Shah commented that 2005 YJP conference will be dedicated to discussion regarding future of Jainism in North America. They expect 100 attendees.

m. YJA - Chintan Shah reported that they had five regional conferences, Habitat for Humanity projects and announced that 2006 YJA convention will be held in Boston. He urged everyone to identify future youth(s) leaders and have them contact YJA board.

n. Other - Mr. Mahendra Mehta and Mr. Pratap Bhogilalji briefed on various projects they are conducting and presented a copy of Jain Kalpa Sutra to JAINA president Mr. Anop Vora.

8. Acharya Chandanaji led closing prayer: Acharya Chandanaji addressed the meeting providing a very inspiring speech regarding the importance of unity among Jains and service to mankind. She remarked that she is leading a delegation to Pakistan at the end of August. The Jain delegation is planning to visit Lahore, Karachi and Rawalpindi in an effort to bring peace between these two nations. She recommended JAINA to take a lead in this effort. She identified and outlined several opportunities where charitable service is much needed. Meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm with closing prayer led by Acharyaji. Future meeting time, date and location will be announced in Aug 2005.

*Prepared by Dr. Sushil Jain*

*Secretary, JAINA*

## 2006 JAINA YATRA

2006 JAINA YATRA will be to the Teerthdhams of South India. We will start from Bombay on January 27 2006 and finish on February 8 2006 at Sravan Belgola. The last day of our Yatra will coincide with the first day of MAHAMASTAK ABHISHEK of Sravan Belgola which takes place once every 12 years. We will depart for Bombay at the end of the day on 8th of February but arrangements will be made for those who wish to stay behind and participate in all the Abhisheks that will last till Feb 19th. Also during this yatra, we will be visiting Shri Kulpakji (Near Hyderabad), Bangalore, Moodbidri and other Teerths. We will also include two days sightseeing in Kerala. Final detailed itinerary will be available by October 15 2005.

The cost of the ground package including lodging and boarding will be approximately \$750.00. You have to make your own travel arrangements to and from India. The yatra is open for everyone including your friends and relatives in India. If you are interested, please contact Dilip V. Shah at [dilipvshah@gmail.com](mailto:dilipvshah@gmail.com) or call (215) 561 0581

# SÄMÄYIK

## The First Discipline

Manubhai Doshi, Chicago, IL

*Na Sämyen Vinā Dhyānam Na Dhyānen Vina Cha Tat  
Nishkāmam Jāyate Tasmāt, Dvayamanyonyakāranam*

--- Yogshāstra

(No meditation without equanimity; No equanimity without meditation;  
Both are interdependent; One can gain stability thereby)

**O**f the twelve restraints for laymen, we have by now examined five minor restraints and three auxiliary ones. Now we have to consider four disciplinary ones. As a matter of fact, they are the disciplines and not the restraints. The restraints are cast in negative form in the sense of not doing something or restraining therefrom. The disciplines, on the other hand, are cast in positive form in the sense of performing something. The first of them is Sāmāyik. There are following six rituals that a layman is supposed to perform every day.

- 1 Sāmāyik, practicing of equanimity
- 2 Chaturvinshati-Stav, praying to 24 Tirthankars
- 3 Guru Vandan, offering obeisance to preceptor
- 4 Pratikraman, turning back from transgressions
- 5 Kāyotsarga (Kāusagga), concentration and meditation
- 6 Pratyākhyān (Pachchakhān), taking appropriate vows

The Sanskrit term for essential is Āvashyak. These six essentials are therefore known as six Āvashyaks. Of these, Sāmāyik is the first and foremost. Foremost in the sense that no other activity is considered spiritually more significant than Sāmāyik. The term Sāmāyik is made up of the words 'Sam' meaning equanimity and 'Āy' meaning incoming. The termination Ik is applied to show that what brings forth equanimity is Sāmāyik. Alternately, the term can be derived from Samay which means soul. As such, the activity that deals with soul is Sāmāyik. In other words, when a person remains soul oriented, he can be said to be staying in Sāmāyik.

Bhagavati Sutra defines Sāmāyik as dwelling in self-equanimity. This is given from the absolute point of view. From the practical point of view Achārya Hemchandrāsuri defines it as giving up worldly involvement and staying in equanimity for 48 minutes. As such, equanimity, soul orientation, peace of mind etc. can be considered synonyms of Sāmāyik.

Sāmāyik is the exercise for gaining equanimity. It is a pertinent tool for the ailing human community that at present stands torn on account of worries and afflictions arising from

misery, poverty, shortage, disease, disputes, etc. At present, people everywhere happen to be living under stress. They resort to various ways and means to gain peace of mind that unfortunately eludes them. Jainism offers for this purpose the tool of Sāmāyik that can guarantee the peace of mind. Some people may perhaps consider this as too tall a claim, because they might have noticed many Jains regularly performing Sāmāyik and still remaining bereft of peace. This happens because people usually perform it mechanically as a lifeless ritual. The results expected from true Sāmāyik, cannot come forth from such mechanical performance and the people then lose faith in the efficacy of this vital tool.

Peace is a function of mind. Mental apparatus has to be properly exercised, if one wants to experience real peace. Ample evidence is now available to show that one can gain peace of mind by concentration and meditation. Sāmāyik is essentially an exercise of this type and it can lead the aspirant to equanimity and peace. During Sāmāyik, the aspirant learns to stay away from all sorts of craving and aversion and to stay tuned to the nature of soul. This tuning is not easy. One has to practice it repeatedly by meditating about the true nature of soul. If one is not used to meditation, he can initially devote his time in reading books that deal with soul or in listening to the talks about it. Simultaneously, he has to avoid all sorts of instincts that defile the mind. If a person thus performs Sāmāyik properly, he can surely gain peace of mind that seems to have been lost at present.

Let us now examine the traditional formalities for performing Sāmāyik.

**PRELIMINARIES:** One should get physically cleaned, put on clean clothes, hold Muhapatti (clean white piece of cloth folded in specific pattern) in hand between the palm and the thumb and sit in front of preceptor's seat, if there be one. Otherwise, he should set up some religious book on a small stand, place over it the rosary of 108 beads called Navkārwalli and assume that apparatus to be the seat of preceptor. Then holding Muhapatti in the left hand and extending the right palm towards that seat, he should recite the Navkārmantra.

Mantra means a charm and Navkärmantra is considered the most sacred charm. Its main significance is that instead of offering obeisance to any particular entity, it offers that to all the holders of defined attributes, irrespective of their individuality. Moreover, offering of obeisance helps in cultivating the sense of modesty. It makes the heart receptive to the real purpose of spiritual activities. In fact, modesty is a prerequisite of spiritual pursuit.

While reciting Navkärmantra, the aspirant should bear in mind that his soul is inherently imbibed with the attributes possessed by the omniscient and the liberated souls. What is required is the endeavor to manifest the same. In such an endeavor, one cannot indulge in any unwholesome activity. It is therefore said in Navkärmantra that the fivefold obeisance eradicates all sins and it is the most blissful.

Thereafter one should recite the Panchindiya Sutra that describes preceptor's 36 attributes, which are supposed to be incorporated in the assumed seat for preceptor.

Then the aspirant pays homage to the preceptor by reciting the following Khamäsaman Sutra. While doing that, the feet up to the knees, hands up to the elbows and the forehead should be touching the floor.

*Ichchhāmi Khamāsamanō Vandīun Jāvanizzāe  
Nisibhāe Matthaena Vandāmi.*

It means, 'Embodiment of forgiveness, being desirous of bowing, I give up the defilements to the utmost possible extent and kneel at your feet with my head down.' (Instead of this Sutra, the Sthānakwāsī people usually recite Tikhutto that conveys the same meaning.)

**KÄUSAGGA OR KÄYOTSARGA :** Sāmāyik being an exercise in equanimity, the aspirant now gets ready to enter that stage. Equanimity presupposes non-violence. The aspirant however realizes that he might have caused violence or distress to other living beings during his movements. For atonement of such intentional or unintentional violence, he now undertakes a Kāusagga which is also one of the six essential rituals.

The Sanskrit term for Kāusagga is Kāyotsarga. It is made up of two words, Kāyā meaning the body and Utsarga meaning giving up. So the term means giving up the physical activities. By implication, it means suspending all physical and mental involvement and getting absorbed in spiritual aspects by concentrating and meditating about the Self. Thus Kāusagga is helpful in averting the physical as well as mental impurities. Moreover, it enables the aspirant to stay equanimous in face of any inconvenience or discomfort.

During Kāusagga, one has to stay motionless. There are however some involuntary movements that are permissible. In Jain terminology they are known as Āgārs. Such Āgārs are specified in Annattha Sutra, which is explained later. Since the aspirant

is not supposed to make any movement other than those mentioned therein, that Sutra is invariably recited before undertaking a Kāusagga.

Kāusagga can be for a longer or shorter duration. Its duration is specified in terms of respiration, because concentration can be easily achieved by observing respiration. The most common duration is of 25 respiration. During Kāusagga, aspirants are usually instructed to recite 25 lines of Logassa Sutra, which mentions the names of all 24 Tirthankars and adores them. The aspirants are expected to mentally recite one line of that Sutra with every respiration.

Unfortunately most of the people are not aware of this stipulation. They are asked to observe Kāusagga of certain number of Logassa. They therefore start reciting the same as fast as possible and then terminate the Kāusagga. True Kāusagga is supposed to have a very wholesome impact on mind. Being however unaware of its significance, most of the aspirants remain deprived of that wholesome effect. This situation needs to be changed and the people should be made aware of the vital role that Kāusagga can play in attaining tranquillity and peace of mind.

Here the aspirant undertakes the Kāusagga of 25 respirations for mitigating the violence and/or distress, advertently or inadvertently caused to other living beings. This is a mini Pratikraman. For this purpose, he recites the Iriyāvaham Sutra, which describes how a person is likely to be involved in violence while making movement. Thereafter he recites the following Tassa Uttari Sutra.

*Tassa Uttari Karanenam, Pāyachchhit Karanenam, Visohi  
Karanenam, Visalli Karanenam, Pavānam Kammānam  
Nigghāyanatthāe Thāmi Kāusaggam.*

It means, 'For the sake of sublimation, repentance, purification, eliminating hurting and for uprooting the sinful activities, I undertake the Kāusagga.' That is of course subject to the limitations mentioned in the following Annattha Sutra that he now recites.

*Annattha Oosāsenam, Nisāsenam, Khāsāsenam, Chhāsenam,  
Jambhāsenam, Uddāsenam, Vāyanissāsenam, Bhamālie,  
Pittamuchchhāe, Suhoomehim Angasanchālehim, Suhoomehim  
Khelsanchālehim, Suhoomehim Dīthīsanchālehim; Evamāeheim  
Āgārehim Abhaggo Avirābio, Hujja Me Kāusaggao; Jāv  
Arihantānam Bhagavantānam Namukkārenam Na Pāremi,  
Tāv Kāyam Thānenam, Monenam, Zānenam, Appānam Vosirāmi*

It means, 'Except for inhaling, exhaling, coughing, sneezing, yawning, belching, passing gas, dizziness, faints, minute movements of limbs, of cough within the body as well as of eyes and such other permissible movements (forced by fire, fatal assault, official orders or snake bite etc.); let my Kāusagga remain uninterrupted and unobstructed till I terminate it with obeisance to the graceful omniscient Lord.'

Then he stays in Kāusagga during which he observes respiration and/or mentally recites the first 25 lines of Logassa Sutra. He recites one line of the Sutra with every respiration. At the end of 25 respiration, he terminates the Kāusagga by uttering Namō Arihantānam and then recites the Logassa Sutra aloud.

Then the aspirant unfolds Muhapatti and turns it over 3 times to make sure that not even the minute insects have crept in. If he notices one, he carefully removes the same and places it in a place, where it may not have to face hurting. This is for the purpose of total vigilance in observance of non-violence.

The aspirant is now ready for commencing Sāmāyik. He therefore seeks permission for undertaking it and staying therein. Then after reciting one Navkāṛmantra, he prays for administering the oath of Sāmāyik. The preceptor or some elder therefore administers to him the oath by reciting the following Sutra.

*Karemi Bhante Sāmāyikam, Sāvajjam Jogam Pachchabhāmi;  
Jāva Niyamam Pajjuvāsāmi, Duviham Tivibenam; Manenam,  
Vayāe, Kāenam; Na Karemi, Na Kāravemi; Tassa Bhante,  
Padikkamāmi, Nindāmi. Girihāmi, Appānam Vosirāmi.*

It means, 'Graceful Lord, I am performing Sāmāyik and vow to give up the worldly involvement. So long as I stay in Sāmāyik, I will not indulge or induce others to indulge in any worldly involvement by mind, words or body. My Lord, I hate, abhor, turn away and withdraw my soul from such involvement.' Then, by uttering the appropriate words, the aspirant seeks permission from the preceptor for starting Sāmāyik, for occupying the seat and for being engaged in study of the Self. He then spends 48 minutes, which is the duration of one Sāmāyik while exercising in equanimity by meditation or Self-contemplation or spiritual study or recitation etc.

It would be clear from this description that the said formalities are worthwhile and meaningful for those, who understand the meaning and realize the significance of the concerned Sutras. The main objective of performing Sāmāyik is to attain equanimity. Formalities are laid for providing the prerequisites of physical cleanliness, pious environment, regard for preceptor, utmost care for not hurting even the minute beings, concentration and sense of detachment for the worldly involvement. In Digambar tradition this is done by simply by reciting Navkāṛmantra, while facing, with folded hands, the four directions one after another.

A question may arise why Sāmāyik is to be performed for 48 minutes instead of 45 or 50 minutes, for instance. In ancient times, the time was measured in terms of Ghadies of 24 minutes. A day was thus divided into 60 Ghadies instead of 24 hours. The duration of Sāmāyik was laid as of 2 Ghadies, which is equivalent to 48 minutes.

**TERMINATION OF SĀMĀYIKA:** After observing Sāmāyik for 48 minutes, one would either undertake another Sāmāyik or he would terminate it. For another Sāmāyik he need

not go through any termination formality. He should however once again undergo the entire formality for starting Sāmāyik. If he wants to terminate it, he should undergo the following formalities.

As earlier, he should kneel at the preceptor or his seat with Khamāsaman Sutra. Then he should go ahead with the Iriyāvahiya Kāusagga as before and repeat the entire formalities up to turning of Muhapatti. Then he should seek permission of the preceptor for terminating the Sāmāyik. Then laying down his right palm as a symbol of having satisfactorily performed the Sāmāyik, he should recite the Sāmāyia Vayajutto Sutra.

Then he recalls 32 ways a Sāmāyik could be faulted and repents for indulging in any of the lapses. 10 of them are mental lapses, 10 verbal ones and 12 physical ones. Though somewhat differently described among Murtipujak and Sthānakavasi traditions, they are more or less identical. Following are the principal lapses or faults to be avoided.

Indiscretion, desiring wealth, status or progeny, arrogance, disrespect, anger; fright, hurried or faulty reciting of Sutras, uttering foul, harmful or exciting words, singing or telling attachment oriented songs and stories, picking up disputes, scratching, idling, seating leisurely or resorting to unnecessary support, glancing here and there, going to sleep, mentally or physically getting involved in worldly activities, etc.

In the end he recites Navkāṛmantra while keeping the open right hand palm in front of his face. This is symbolic of withdrawing the attributes that were supposed to have been attributed in the preceptor's seat.

It would be interesting to note that monks and nuns do not perform Sāmāyik. They do not do so, because at the time of renouncement, they take the vow to lead spiritual life. They are thus supposed to stay in Sāmāyik forever. In fact, Sāmāyik is the essence of monastic life. It is therefore stated in the Sāmāyia Vayajutto Sutra that when a layman performs Sāmāyik, he becomes like a monk for that much time.

Before concluding let us consider what a person should exactly do during Sāmāyik. He has obviously to contemplate and meditate about the soul. Basic thinking should be to inquire from within, 'Who am I?' 'What is my true nature?' 'How can I realize that?' 'How can I avoid other involvement?' Infinite perception, infinite enlightenment, infinite bliss and infinite vigor are the attributes inherent in soul. We do not realize that because we are under the impact of defilement arising from craving and aversion, and are overcome by delusion resulting from ignorance about our true nature. Anger, arrogance, deception and greed are the principal defilements that afflict the soul. During Sāmāyik, the people should practice to stay away from them. They should also try to cultivate the sense of detachment towards the worldly aspects.

# “EXTENDING JAIN HERITAGE IN WESTERN ENVIRONMENT – MY EXPERIENCE”

By: Misty Shah

Misty Shah, a 14 years old, has released two albums on devotional songs. She is working on “Bhaktamar Stotra”, which will be released soon. All the proceeds of CDs will go to Veerayatan. For more details, please visit [www.mistymelodies.com](http://www.mistymelodies.com).

With the blessings of Sadhviji Shubhamji, I began my spiritual journey, with baby steps, when I was eight years old. Sadhviji Shubhamji’s genuine love and kindness had a way of captivating me. At that tender age, and even at present, I am naive when it comes to many religious rituals. The moment is still vivid when I ran into her arms and sat on her lap, feeling the vibrant energy that was naturally apart of her. Ever since, she has become apart of my life and has inspired me to take the path towards becoming a practicing Jain. Every year when she visits the US, I have been blessed with the opportunity to spend time with her. For hours, I would sit by her, listening to her voice, mesmerized by her words and her wisdom. These moments have always been very precious and they have grown into memories that I will cherish for the rest of my life. There are many moral stories that she has shared with me. When hearing about the theme for this year Convention, it urged me to share Sadhviji Shubhamji’s story about the “Seed” with the Jain Community and the Jain Youth in particular.

We are like a seed. A seed is small, and can easily be blown away, but it has a great potential to blossom. Our soul has a great potential to blossom as well. It is filled with infinite energy and genuine bliss, but it is masked and suppressed by the “vikaar bhaavs” like pain, anger and fear. Alone, we try to work our way through this disarray, but quite often we get lost. We ask ourselves, what are we truly searching for? What is our purpose in this life? The answers are at our spiritual roots within the purity of our soul, when there is

peace and clarity. In the storming waters of the ocean, we cannot see a clear reflection. But in the calm, peaceful water of the pond, we can see a clear reflection. This potential for absolute peace and clarity is within all of us, just as every little seed has the potential to blossom. But for a seed to blossom, it needs water, sunlight, and nurturance. For our soul to blossom with limitless love and bliss, we need the guidance and nurturance of a spiritual leader. In the disarray of pain, anger and fear, when it is easy to lose sight of the peace and clarity, we need a spiritual leader to guide us and sometimes even carry us along the path. A torch guides us through a dark cave, as a spiritual leader guides us through life. Spiritual leaders are our guiding light for the future. They connect us with our past, and bestow us with a glimpse of hope for the present.

The leaders of our Jain community have brought about the awareness that it is absolutely essential to sustain Jainism in the Western World. As a fourteen year old, having been born and raised in the United States, I believe that along with the awareness, we need to emphasize the importance of having a spiritual leader in our life. Since Sadhviji Shubhamji came into my life, I feel that I have been able to connect with my Jain heritage. It is something very precious that will remain apart of me for more than just this lifetime. Sadhviji Shubhamji has nurtured the little spiritual seed in me, and I am sure there are many more all over the globe, especially young children like me, who can benefit from the nurturance, guidance and inspiration of a spiritual leader.

*continued from page 23*

and Achievement Certificates were awarded to the children.

Pujya Gurudev (Dr. Rakeshbhai Jhaveri) visited Toronto and gave three Satsangs at Sanatan Mandir and performed five Pratistas in private homes of members of Jain Society of Toronto. More than 400 people attended the Satsangs and requested Pujya Gurudev to revisit Toronto in 2006. Sixty members of Jain Society of Toronto took a bus trip to

New Jersey to participate in Gurupurnima celebrations attended by over 600 Jains from all over North America, UK, Belgium, India and Singapore.

Acharya Shree Roopchandji Maharaj gave four lectures on Meditation at the Jain Centre. The talks were well attended. The internationally famous Shree Hira Ratan Manek revisited Toronto and gave a talk on his favorite subject on Solar energy and how one can

survive on it

In June 2005 Panditji Abhaykumar Jain, a student of Panditji Dr. Hukamchand Bharill and an authoritative Digambar scholar gave a series of lectures at Sri Jain Mandir and at Jain Centre in Toronto. The topics of his discussions cannot be included here because of space but suffice it to say that he made the most esoteric scriptural subjects interesting and easy to understand for the mixed audience of young and old.

# A SMALL TOWN IN AMERICA CELEBRATING 18 ABHISHEKH JAIN PRATISHTHA

A small town in America having only 10 Jain families, conducted 18 Abhishekh Pratishtha for the 24th Tirthankar Bhagwan Mahavir in the Hindu temple of Peoria Illinois on May 29, 2005. Hemendra V. Maiseri coordinated the Pratishtha ceremony. Pratishtha program was very successful. Over 200 people attended the ceremony.

Four former Presidents and the current President of Jain Society of Chicago were present during the Pratishtha ceremony along with 2 buses full of senior citizens sponsored by the



Mahavir Senior Citizen coordinated by Sumanbhai Shah and one bus full of

Mahila Mandal lead by Mrs. Hasumati Bavisi of Chicago. A Jain Family from Saint Louise and the local Jain families along with the family of Nilesh Shah of Bloomington Illinois.

Mr. Narendra Nandu (Vidhikar) and his team of 7 people, Swami Shrutpragyaji and Sadhviji Shri Shubhamji made a big difference in making the function noticeable. We raised 20 thousand dollars for the temple. Almost everybody enjoyed the function. The temple provided breakfast and swamivat-salya lunch.

## MIDWEST

*Manubhai Doshi, Regional Editor*

### CHICAGO, IL

Arrangements for Ayambil were made at the Jain Center on April 16, 17, 23 and 24. On an average 100 persons per day took advantage thereof.

Mahavir Jayanti: Lord Mahavir's 2604th birthday was celebrated at the Jain Center on 23rd April 2005. The celebration started with Snātra Poojā in the morning. That was followed by a talk by Shubhamshri.

7th Annual Declamation Contest on that occasion commenced at 2.00 P.M. It consisted of talks on different subjects as per age groups mentioned below. Three prizes (1st Prize \$101.00, 2nd Prize \$75.00, and 3rd Prize \$51.00) were awarded in each age group. 35 individuals participated in the contest.

Group 1. Age 10 years to 13 years.  
Subject: Importance of Religious Education in Western World

1st Place: Shikhar Shah  
2nd Place: Darsha Shah  
3rd Place: Shenil Dodhia

Group 2. Age 14 years to 18 years.  
Subject: Meditation, Health and Happiness

1st Place: Khushbu H. Shah  
2nd Place: Rikhav Vasanwala  
3rd Place: Paridhi Jain

Group 3. Age 28 years and above.  
Subject: Theism and Jainism

1st Place: Sejal Jain  
2nd Place: Neelam Jain  
3rd Place: Vidya Nahar and Kushal Raj Singavi

The winners will also be awarded plaques. Dr. Mukesh Doshi and Darshana Shah coordinated the contest.

Thereafter there was a talk by Shubhamji and then Swamivatsalya. That was followed by the cultural program, which consisted of dance drama 'Chandanbala'. That turned out to be the best program ever presented by JSMC. Over 130 participants enthusiastically took part in that program, which was directed Trupti Kuvadia, Megha Doshi and Shobhana Kamdar. An audience of over 2000 was mesmerized by the very emotional and touching performances. Snātra Poojā and Srimad Rajchandra Samādhidin were organized on May 1. More than 200 people were present on that occasion.

Mahavir Senior Center organized Chaitya Paripāti (going to temples) tour on May 8. 48 people participated. The termination of VarsiTap (year long austerity) was celebrated on 14th May. Seven persons, who observed the austerity, were facilitated on that occasion. The celebration ended with Swāmivātsalya.

Laghurājswāmi Samādhidin was organized on May 15. Health fair also commenced that day, when arrangements were made for drawing blood, measuring B.P. EKG etc.

The society has embarked upon the project of expanding Jain Center at an estimated cost of 7 million. The contract for the purpose has been given and the work is underway.

### DETROIT

On February 6 the Janma Kalyanak of Lord Rushabhdev was celebrated. On February 26, Antaray Karma Nivaran Pooja was together with Snatra Poojā, Ārati, Mangal Divo and Shanti Kalash.

The Society's bi-weekly Pathshala Classes are conducted at the Temple in seven age/grade groups (including one class for adults), and are well attended. Twenty-two voluntary teachers conduct classes as per Jaina Educational Committee's curriculum. There are more than 40 families, who are lifetime sponsors for the classes, each contributing \$1000/- to sustain the cost of study materials, stationery supplies. A new program is being offered after regular Pathshala classes to teach Jain Sutras and prayers to interested students and their parents.

Mahavir Jayanti Celebration: The 2604th birthday of Lord Mahavir,

was celebrated on Saturday, April 23 in the presence of more than 650 people. The program began with Snātra Poojā and ended with Shānti Kalash. Approximately 30 youths (age range 6 to 17 years) chanted the prayers and recitals during the event. They actively participated in reciting Stavans, Shānti Kalash and led in performing Chaityavandan.

A meeting of the Society's members was held on that occasion and the celebration ended with Swāmivātsalya. Other highlights of Members' Meeting were as follows:

- A Temple Maintenance fund drive conducted by the Board of Trustees and several volunteers, resulting in about 100 members signing to help offset the Temple's annual maintenance cost for the next three years.

- Announcement of major bequest donation of \$50,000 by the family of Late Prakash Jain, who (until mid-2004) was an active Society volunteer, member of Board of Trustees, and organizer of monthly Digambar Poojā.

- Introduction of the Temple's new fulltime Pujari couple, Shri Pankajbhai and Smt Rakshaben Shah of Ahmedabad, who began working on April 1.

- About 100 members participated in a Bone Marrow Donor Drive to support a seven-year old child, Rajan Vyas, stricken with leukemia.

The Society's 30th Anniversary Celebrations were held from May 13 to 15 in the presence of Gurudev Chitrabhanuji, Samani Jayant Pragyaaji and Samani Sanmati Pragyaaji. A year-by-year photo-poster and memorabilia Exhibition was presented.

On May 14, the day's events began with a Snātra Poojā. In the late afternoon there was the program of commemorating the Society's history, milestones and the temple construction, honoring three key founding members (Arvindbhai-Ramilaben R. Shah, Sharadbhai-Naliniben R. Shah and Mahendrabhai-Sarojben J. Shah) for their initiatives and vision in starting regular Poojā, Pathshala Classes etc. It was attended by about 500 members, Michigan State Legislators, City of Farmington Hills Mayors and several dignitaries. A formal souvenir magazine was

released.

The evening witnessed the lively dances by children and Society's young women members. Another highlight was the singing of Maitri Bhavana and recitation of Chattāri Mangalam Stuti by American women members of The Lighthouse Center of Ann Arbor, MI.

## SOUTHWEST

*Jadavji Kenia, Regional Editor*

### NORTH TEXAS (Dallas Area)

Dignitary visits started early this year with Swami Shrut Prajnaji spending over a week at JSNT from March 19 through March 27, 2005. He covered various topics such as Dhyan, Aatm-Svabhav, Dukh-Sukh, Anekant, Jeevan and Family relationships. The next big event was Mahavir Jayanti celebrated on April 24, 2005 with Mahavir Pooja at the Jain Center in Richardson, Texas followed by usual Aartis. Then everyone moved to the larger Fun Asia complex nearby. Children's program was conducted in one of the theaters and later lunch was served in one of the other halls. The young group 1B of Pathshala children presented a lot of one-liner facts about our religion. Group 1A performed a drama about Ilachi Kumar. Group 2 made a slide presentation about the Kaal Chakra and facts about 6 Aaras. High school age children of Group 3 presented a variation of Jeopardy game covering Mahavir's life and a lot of Jain principles. Mr. Bhal Daulat, Chairperson of the Temple Committee (for the new Jain Center) gave status of their progress and some relative data of some of the other centers in North America.

Four weekly Swadhyay sessions, monthly poojas, other meetings and Pathshala classes are continuing as usual. Pathshala children population has grown quite a bit now and class room space shortage has become significant. We are looking forward to many dignitaries starting with Subhamji from June 2-10, followed by H. Bharillji from June 13-19, Pandit Dhirajbhai during the Paryushan and others whose dates are not fixed yet.

JSNT contact is our current

president Ashok Daftary at 972-596-5555, email: acdaftary@yahoo.com. JSNT website is www.dfwjains.org.

## WEST

*Chandrakant Parekh, Regional Editor v*

### LOS ANGELES, CA

Jain Center of Southern California (JCSC) is now proceeding with Phase II of its expansion plan that includes a religious complex with the Derasar and an Aradhana Hall. In preparation for the construction activities, the Derasar idols will be moved temporarily from the existing location to the new building which was inaugurated on March 25, 2005. To accomplish the move, a chalit sthapan vidhi will be directed by Vidhikar Narendrabhai Nandu on July 8-9.

A 15th Annual Health Fair sponsored by JCSC, Jain Social Group and Anekant Community Center was organized. This popular annual event attracted approximately 250 participants of various cultures and ethnicities – Jains, Indians, Bangladeshis, Caucasians, African Americans, Latinos, Chinese, Koreans, and others - who took advantage of a free screening and checkup offered by a team of experts including family practitioner, pediatrician, internist, cardiologist, allergy & asthma, rheumatologist, gastroenterologist, psychiatrist, nephrologists, nutritionist, dietitian, physical therapist, etc. Buena Park City Mayor Pro Tem Arthur Brown and his wife thanked the volunteers for their invaluable time in making this event a great success.

Mahavir Jayanti was celebrated in the new cultural complex on April 24. The Pathshala students presented a cultural program that included Navkar Mantra Jaap, stuti, dramas, bhajans, and dances set to devotional music. Following the program, two Jain dignitaries addressed the audience. Satishkumar, a Jain scholar from UK, talked about the three dimensions of the non-violence. Dwarko Sundrani, a colleague of savant-saint Vinoba Bhavé from India, talked about compassion, the foundation of Ahimsa.

All activities are posted on JCSC's website at [www.jaincenter.net](http://www.jaincenter.net). For additional information, please contact Rameshbhai Doshi, JCSC President, at 714/995-8914 or [rcdoshi@yahoo.com](mailto:rcdoshi@yahoo.com).

## SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Jain Center of Northern California (JCNC) has raised over \$100,000 for the Tsunami Relief Fund through generous contributions and a musical concert organized by the local artists. Preparations for the 2005 JAINA Convention to be held July 1-4 are well underway. Jain religious leaders, dignitaries and followers from USA, Canada, UK, Europe, India, Africa and other countries will participate in this four-day event.

Astanika Parva, a Digambar Jain tradition, was celebrated March 19-20 with dharma sadhna led by Dr. Khem Chand Ji Jain. Astanika Parva is a celebration of an occasion when four types of Devta perform puja on 52 Akritram Chaitalaya.

JCNC Education committee has introduced a new Shala event called "Samuhik Prayer Day" with the concept that "Prayer doesn't change things. It changes people and they change things". The first "Samuhik Prayer Day" was dedicated to the Tsunami victims and their families. The Jain Shala sleepover at the Jain Bhawan on February 28 was well attended. Approximately 75 children were organized in various groups and participated in fun activities that included Darshan, yoga, games, reading, and a talent show.

Information about activities are published in the "JCNC Darpan" newsletter and are posted on JCNC's website at [www.jcnc.org](http://www.jcnc.org).

## SACRAMENTO, CA

Jain Center of Greater Sacramento (JCGS) organizes a monthly swadhyay and various activities including religious celebrations, Preksha dhyana and meditation classes, and lectures by visiting dignitaries. For additional information, please contact Rajiv Jain, JCGS President, at e-mail: [arham108@aol.com](mailto:arham108@aol.com).

## SAN DIEGO, CA

Jain Society of San Diego (JSSD) organizes regular activities which include - a monthly Jainshala for children, adult classes, swadhyay, and a weekly pooja every Saturday at Shri Mandir. For additional information, please contact Manjila Jain, JSSD President, at e-mail: [manjularjain@hotmail.com](mailto:manjularjain@hotmail.com).

## SEATTLE, WA

Jain Society of Seattle (JSS) organizes monthly programs on every 2nd Sunday of the month. For additional information about JSS and programs in Seattle area, please contact Devkumar Gandhi, JSS President, at 425/235-4848 or log on to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/jainsocietyseattle/>.

## ORLANDO, FL

Jain Society Of Central Florida celebrated Mahavir Janam Kalyanak and more than 200 people attended the celebration marking the 2,604th birth anniversary of Lord Mahavir.

The program began with chanting of the Navakar Mahamantra, followed by stavans, drama on Charity Giving, dances and a speech. The entire program, except for the speech, was performed by children ages from 6 month to 15 years. The program concluded with the Swamivatsalya.

Varshitap Parna: Mrs. Harshaben Nareshbhai Shah, residing in Cherry Hill, N.J. was doing her 5th Varshitap. She was visiting Orlando, and her wishes to do Varshitap Parna at JSOCF center, in Orlando. JSOCF organized a Parna ceremony at the center on Akha Trij Day, May 11th. More than 40 members showed up for the Parna ceremony along with her guests from India. The Parna was done with 108 Ghadhas (tokries) with freshly squeezed sugarcane juice. After that one of the Samnijiis gave a lecture and the program was concluded with the Swamivatsalya. Mrs. Harshaben Shah has already started her 6th Varshitap.

108 Parshvanath Puja: On the eve of first anniversary of the Prathista of temple/upashray, on August 6th, The JSOCF will organize 108 Parshvanath Puja. It will be conducted by well renowned Shri Narendrabhai Nandu and group from India. JSOCF is inviting all Jains to attend this function.

## CANADA

Mahendra Mehta, Regional Editor

## TORONTO, ON

Jain Society of Toronto observed Aymbil in April and June at Jain Centre with 30+ tapasvis taking part.

Mahavir Jayanti is usually the first major program at Jain Centre that brings out as many as 600+ members from winter blues of January and February. There was snatra puja, aarti, mangal divo followed by Swamivatsalya.

Trustee Elections: Of the five trustees of Jain Society of Toronto, two had completed their 5 year terms. The new elected trustees were Mr. Shobhagh Singh Khamesra and Dr. Mahendra H. Mehta.

Rajendra Kamdar from Rajkot, India and a renowned scholar on works of Acharya Kund Kund and a student of Kanji Swami of Songadh visited the Centre in May and gave a series of discourses on self realization.

Jain Society of Toronto was one of the many members of Interfaith Organization that participated in the Open Day and our Centre had some 200 visitors on May 28, 2005. Mr. Dharam Jain and Mr. Jaswant Shah welcomed the visitors, showed them around and answered many of their questions. It was a practical demonstration how such exercises can bring interfaith understanding and enhance friendship and desire to learn other viewpoints on various issues. In July: Paulomi Gudka was bestowed with Youth award and Prakash Modi was given adult recognition award.

The Jain Pathsala Picnic organized by the Pathsala teachers was a roaring success. Over 150 children and their parents took part in the outdoor activities

*continued on page 20*

# TIRTHANKAR MAHAVIRA

BY SHRI KUMARPAL DESAI

SECOND EDITION, 232 PAGES,  
SHRI JAYBHIKHKHU SAHITYA TRUST, AHMEDABAD

**T**his new edition of the book has been supplemented by extensive inclusion of pictures from one of the rarest of manuscript "kalpasutra" in golden letters.

The text briefly enumerates 26 past lives of Mahavira, auspicious event of Mahavira's life including Devananda's dreams, joy experienced by entire universe – visible and invisible at the time of his birth and the playful childhood all beautifully illustrated. Author's love and devotion for his subject begins to take over the writing style as he describes events surrounding Diksha Mahosav. Reading further, accounts of Mahavir's spiritual journey, ordeal, flow of compassion even for his tormentors and attainment of pure knowledge are described in such colorful details that you almost forget to look at the pictures and turn the page to get ahead of the story.

In simple English Kumarpalbhair tells the grandest story ever told. There is a chapter on the questions and answers between Mahavira and his principal direct disciple, Gautama – Bhagavatisutra, essence of Jain Philosophy is presented in concise and precise terms that alone is worth the cost of the book.

Encyclopedic collection of facts and figures pertaining

the life of Mahavira at the end of the book including a glossary of Sanskrit and Prakrit words are proof of years of meticulous research and abiding faith of the author. Is it any wonder that the President of India has awarded Kumarpalbhair honor of Padmasree? If you want to explain life and legacy of Tirthankar Mahavira to your children, you will not find better resource than this book.

Gurudev Shri Chitrabhanuji has complemented Kumarpalbhair by saying that "not only is it a labor of love but its spotlight is hung over a world philosophy that is essential at the present moment." Dr. N. P. Jain has praised this book by saying "Kumarpalbhair has many books to his credit numbering over 100 but this one stands out among them as the best that he has penned."

The book is available from JAINA BOOK DEPOT for \$35.00 (Post Paid) write to: Rohit Doshi at 505 African Road, Vestal, NY 13850 or email doshi505@yahoo.com

*By Dilip V. Shah, Philadelphia*

## FEDERATION OF JAIN ASSOCIATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA APPEAL

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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.*

# JAIN VISHWA BHARATI ORLANDO, USA

*5th Anniversary  
May 7th and 8th 2005*

**O**n May 7th and 8th, The Jain Vishwa Bharati Orlando Florida celebrated their 5th anniversary. Over 200 people attended this two day, joy-filled event and in the meantime, reinforcing their religious commitment to the center and deepening their spiritual awareness. The profound significance of the center's success indubitably inspired all attendees to strengthen their participation in the activities of the center. As a testament to the center's value as a place of worship and spiritual growth, as the setting for social assembly, as an educational institution, and as a place where all can experience the orderliness of wellbeing through Preksha Meditation and Yoga, people from all over Florida, including Miami, Tampa, Jacksonville, West Palm Beach, Vero Beach, Daytona Beach, Ocala and the Orlando Metro area and South Carolina and California attended the celebration. All embraced the spirit of the center as the two-day celebration commenced.

Saturday's program began with Mangala Charn led by the JVB committee. President Ashok Shah welcomed the devoted participants in the presence of the center's administrators and Jain spiritual and social educationalists, Samani Madhur Pragyaji and Samani Parimal Pragyaji. In honor of this auspicious occasion, JVB director, Kamlesh Shah, read a message from His Holiness Acharyashri Mahapragyaji, which endorses the teachings of meditation and yoga in the center that has been ongoing for the past 5 years. His Holiness also endorses support

for the provisions to carry on with future plans to promote Jainism in the community. Afterwards JVB devotees sang a colorful and melodious song commemorating the eve of the anniversary.

Subsequently, Samani Mahdur Pragyaji's lecture, "How to Achieve Shree," explained the meaning of "Shree" as knowledge, aura and Laxmi. Next, a special group from Tampa started the evening's program with Sangeet Sandhya. Following this, Samani Parimal Pragyaji presented a surprise program titled, "Chabi Ghumaiea and Bhagya Banaiea," And finally, Sashi Jain, Director of JVB, graciously presented to Kamlesh Shah a memento in tribute to his receiving a special honor—"Shrdha Nishtha Shravak"—conferred to him by Acharyashri Mahapragyaji. Vijay Lunawat, JVB Secretary, called attention to this honor and how proud and fortunate JVB is to have had Mr. Shah receive this approbation from the Acharya.

At 7:00 am on Sunday, the program began with the recitation of Bhaktamar, Preksha Meditation and Pranayam. At 9:30 am, Kamlesh Shah, Vijay Lunawat, Devang Chitalia, Neeraj Shah and Tushar Shah, together presented a cultural program about Lord Rishbha, including a song by the ladies about Akshya Tritiya. Following this, Samani Madhur Pragyaji gave a lecture on "Kya Bhagya Ko Badal Sakate Hain." Last of all Samani Parimal Pragyaji acted as Master of Ceremony and concluded the anniversary program.

## *Acharya Mahapragaya celebrates 86th Birthday*

Acharya Mahapragaya, who was in New Delhi as a part of his five-year ahimsa yatra, celebrated his 86th birthday. President APJ Abdul Kalam and BJP president L.K. Advani congratulated the Acharya, as did thousand of devotees.

Speaking on the occasion, President Kalam said: "Six years ago, when I met Acharya, he advised me to devote the rest of my life to preparing peace missiles. I accepted the challenging task and occupied myself in peace activities."

The Acharya, President Kalam said, entrusted him with the even more challenging task of "re-forming the faulty system of modern economics by preparing a complete action plan based on not only the principles of modern economics but integrated with inter-disciplinary research in diverse branches like science, sociology, psychology, philosophy and also religion."

Kalam has already launched the programme for inter-faith efforts in socio-economics development of the nation through establishing the "Foundation for Unity of Religion and Enlightened Citizenship", with Acharya and Kalam himself the benefactors of the foundation.

Saying he was honoured to be present at the felicitation. Advani said "Acharya is not just a saint but a thinker and a philosopher." He added that morals are very important to get ahead in life, and he imbibed these morals and directions from Acharya Mahapragya and his literary work.

In his birthday message, the Acharya said: "Every person should live his life cycle properly. We are Indians but we do not follow our traditions and rituals. We should not only think, but should do some lateral thinking"

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: 185, Male: 170 (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.

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. You may draft an ad yourself in 30 words or less. MIS reserve the right to edit all such ads.
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 photo of yourself with your name printed on the back.
4. Upon receipt of this information the MIS will arrange to publish your ad in the JAIN DIGEST – but only once. You may repeat it in the subsequent issues by mailing \$25. JAIN DIGEST is a quarterly publication.

### Placing an Ad Only

If you do not wish to send photo 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. Fill out MIS Registration Form page1 only (without leaving anything blank), or you may provide the entire information as asked for in this Form. Follow step 2 above. It is very necessary for MIS to complete its database with the information available in Form page1, without which MIS will not be able to process your ad for publication. Please note, your ad will be published once, but you can repeat it by mailing check of \$25.

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.

F581: Gujarati parents invite responses for beautiful professional cultured daughter, born Dec 73, 5'1", 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

F923: Gujarati parents invite proposals w/ photo / bio-data for beautiful charming slim vegetarian US born daughter, June 77, 5'4", PharmD, working with hospital, from professional boys. Call: 970/225-0632. Email: agile47@yahoo.com

F952: Gujarati parents invite proposals w/ bio-data & photo (must) for beautiful caring family-oriented vegetarian US born daughter, Nov 72, 5'4", MD / MPH, from professional nonsmoking vegetarian equally compatible match. Email: jaykdoshi@yahoo.com

F1067: Gujarati parents invite alliance w/ photo, bio-data for their very-beautiful fair charming slim accomplished daughter, born Jan 79, 5'6", completed Degree course in Psychology from South Colorado Uni. (US). Email: gujsg@hotmail.com

F1115: Gujarati parents invite proposals w/ bio-data for beautiful charming vegetarian US born daughter, July 77, 5'3", BS Pharmacy, well employed as Pharmacy Manager, from well educated cultured vegetarian professionally settled boys. Email: shah721@yahoo.com

F1116: Sister invites responses for pretty vegetarian intelligent cultured sister, born June 76, 5'5", BCom, from cultured educated vegetarian Gujarati boys. She is currently in India and willing to settle in USA. Call: 248/822-6030. Email: nima-parekh@hotmail.com

F1117: Gujarati parents invite correspondence from well-educated vegetarian cultured professional boys for beautiful outgoing US born daughter, March 81, 5'5", 115 lb, MD, 3rd Yr student. Call: 606/571-2145. Email: shah7580@yahoo.com

F1119: Gujarati parents invite proposals for beautiful slim accomplished US born daughter, Feb 79, 5'6", MD, 115 lb 2nd Yr resident, from cultured vegetarian nonsmoking professional boys. Call: 954/385-8151 email: sureshsangani@hotmail.com

F1120: Alliance invited by Gujarati parents for beautiful slim cultured US born daughter, July 77, 5'5", 112 lb, graduated Dental School May 2005, from cultured vegetarian nonsmoking professional boys. Call: 954/385-8151 Email: sureshsangani@hotmail.com

F1121: Parents invite proposals for pretty slim talented virtuous vegetarian US born daughter, May 80, 5'3", BS (EE), well employed, from vegetarian professional boys. Call: 812/240-2548. Email: shah29@gmail.com

F1122: Gujarati parents invite responses w/ photo / bio-data for pretty slim very-fair cultured vegetarian Canadian citizen daughter innocently divorced (no-issue), born Oct 74, 5'3", MIS, well employed, from well educated professionally settled vegetarian match. Call: 905/799-3416. Email: suhag05@gmail.com

F1126: Gujarati parents invite proposals w/ photo / profile from well educated professionals for their cultured attractive family-oriented friendly vegetarian innocently divorced (very brief marriage) US born daughter, July 71, 5'2", 105 lb, BS (Fin / Mktg), own consulting co., Email: rg\_545@yahoo.com

AF427: Gujarati parents invite proposals w/ profile-photo for pretty outgoing US raised daughter, Feb 74, 5'2", BS (biology), BS (micro), well positioned in a bioscience co., from cultured professional boys. Call: 847/394-3547 email: modyv840@bigplanet.com

AF434: Accomplished MD, US born, Sept 73, 5'3", beautiful fair athletic cultured vegetarian daughter. Gujarati parents welcome responses from well-educated cultured vegetarian professional young men. Email: revtis@gmail.com

AF452: Gujarati parents invite proposals for pretty talented vegetarian never married daughter, born March 61, 5'4", BS (micro), well employed, from professional vegetarian boys. Currently she is in UK & wish to settle in USA. Call: 770/435-8134. Email: pann\_2004@yahoo.co.uk

AF453: Gujarati parents invite proposals for an attractive slim vegetarian US born daughter, May 81, 5'4", 115 lb, PharmD, from handsome intelligent US born boys. Email: ajdoshi81@hotmail.com

AF457: Alliance invited for pretty vegetarian US born Gujarati girl, June 79, 5'1", 110 lb, PharmD, Pharmacist, from well-educated open-minded vegetarian match. Call: 901/363-8430. Email: sshah622@yahoo.com

AF459: Gujarati parents invite proposals for beautiful fair slim family oriented US citizen daughter, born June 78, 5'3", working for Top Acctg Firm, preferably from Gujarati vegetarian professional boys' family. Email: jng782002@yahoo.com

AF460: Alliance invited for an accomplished Engineer/MBA, Jain girl, born 75, 5'4", living in southern California, from well educated professional vegetarian boys preferably in California. email bio-data/photo to pjhaveri75@hotmail.com

AF461: Gujarati parents invite alliance for beautiful slim vegetarian US raised daughter, Oct 79, 5'3", 4th year Dental student, from cultured educated preferably MD / Dentist boys. Email with bio-data / photo. Email: sksh0330@yahoo.com

AF462: Alliance invited from well educated Jain vegetarian boy for a beautiful Gujarati girl, divorcee (no child), born 4 / 74, 5'0", 96 lb, lived in USA from 96 - 2001. Bharat Natyam dancer & teacher with modern & traditional values. Currently working in Bombay for multi national co., Ph 949/275-0231. Email: vaishli@hotmail.com

F1017: Alliance invited from cultured professional Male, for US Citizen Gujarati Jain, Female Physician, never married Vegetarian Age 32, 5'6", currently in final year residency in Michigan.

Email: pdoshi72@earthlink.net

F1080: Jain parents invite proposals from professional boys for their charming well cultured vegetarian Physician daughter, born March 74, 5'1", currently in her 2nd year residency (NY). Phone: 718/483-2706. msbm59@yahoo.com

F1093: Gujarati Jain parents invite proposals for very beautiful charming vegetarian teetotaler US born daughter, Aug 78, 5'7", BS (CS), Sr. software engineer in multinational co., from well-educated professionally settled handsome boys. Call: 630/961-1689. Email: Crystal1M@comcast.net

F1135: Gujarati family invite responses from cultured educated vegetarian boys for pretty slim vegetarian cultured daughter, born Aug 76, 5'6", BS, currently well employed in Bombay and willing to settle in USA. Call: 718-962-6438. Email: paragi2000@rediffmail.com

F1136: Gujarati parents invite alliance with bio-data / photo for charming brilliant vegetarian US born daughter, Nov 82, 5'3", 110 lb, 3rd year MD, from US born cultured MD boys (24 - 27 yrs). Email: ybsbns@yahoo.com

F1137: Gujarati parents invite alliance w/ photo bio-data for beautiful charming vegetarian daughter, born Sept 80, 5'4", 110 lb, BBA, from cultured well-educated professional vegetarian Jain boys. Call: 734/673-0421. shah\_bina@yahoo.com

AM367: Gujarati parents invite proposals w/ bio-data photo for beautiful affectionate US born, vegetarian daughter, Oct 77, 5'4", dual major with PharmD in 02/06 from well educated professional US born boys. Call: 312/802-0067. Email: benu444@yahoo.com

AF464: Jain parents invite responses for beautiful vegetarian US citizen daughter, Jan 79, 5'2", 104 lb, MS (comp engineering), employed as software consultant, from well educated Jain boys. Call: 704/759-9847. Email: kkjain99@yahoo.com

AF465: Gujarati family invite proposals w/ bio-data photo for pretty vegetarian daughter born, Nov 80, 5'2", studied medical assisting in USA. Currently working in a Physician's office. Call: 201/653-6763. Email: desaiusa@rediffmail.com

AF473: Gujarati parents invite responses for their daughter, born June 75, 5'5", 99 lb, MCom, MCA (comp), software engineer in India from well educated vegetarian nonsmoker nondrinker Jain boys. Call: 631/724-1471. India Phone: 011-91-264-248-9870. Email: abhodia@rediffmail.com

AM474: Gujarati parents invite proposals for their pretty fair intelligent vegetarian US born daughter, July 81, 5'3", 110 lb, BA (psychology), pursuing MS, well employed as case manager, from cultured well educated vegetarian professional boys. Call: 817/795-4392. Email: pshah439@yahoo.com

## MALE

M472: Gujarati parents invite proposals w/ bio-data / photo for handsome talented vegetarian non-drinker, non-smoker US citizen issueless divorcee son, born Sept 71, 5'7", MS (ME), well employed / settled, from suitable match.call : 516/334-8196. pshah44@hotmail.com

M1061: Alliance invited for handsome talented vegetarian Gujarati boy, born Dec 76, 5'8", 154 lb, MBA (MIS), well employed, from Indian born / raised educated vegetarian Gujarati girls. Call: 978/726-5323. Email: matrimonial\_777@yahoo.com

M1088: Gujarati parents invite responses w/ bio-data / photo from well-educated vegetarian pretty girls for handsome caring brilliant UK born / USA raised son, Dec 76, 5'7", 135 lb, BS (economics), International MBA. girishshah108@sbc-global.net

M1095: Gujarati parents invite proposals w/ photo / bio-data for handsome talented vegetarian US citizen son, born Sept 76, 5'7", 130 lb, ME (EE & CS) from reputed school, working as hardware design engineer in silicon valley, CA, from well-educated pretty cultured girls. Email: mhshah76@gmail.com or Call: 408/272-6833.

M1113: Alliance invited from cultured vegetarian girls for handsome talented vegetarian Gujarati boy, born Jan 78, 5'8", 150 lb, BS (comp applications), well employed in India and willing to settle in USA. Call: 516/333-8032. Email: shah\_shilpan@yahoo.co.in

M1114: Gujarati parents invite proposals for handsome intelligent vegetarian US citizen son, born Feb 77, 5'8", 165 lb, BS (civil eng), own business, from cultured educated girls. Call: 713/690-0999. Email: amish411@yahoo.com

M1118: Gujarati parents invite proposals from educated vegetarian cultured girls, for handsome outgoing US born son, Aug 79, 5'11", 155 lb, 4th Yr MD son. Call: 606/571-2145. Email: shah7580@yahoo.com

M1123: Alliance invited by Gujarati parents for handsome talented vegetarian US born son, Dec 78, 5'9", MA (public policy), professionally employed in DC, from US born / raised educated girls. Call: 856/983-9612. Email: kashmirag@hotmail.com

M1124: Gujarati parents invite proposals w/ bio-data / photo for handsome brilliant vegetarian Australia raised son, Nov 80, 5'10", 152 lb, BE (comp), BS(comp), well positioned with a large global bank in Sydney, from cultured educated pretty vegetarian girls. Call: 860/241-9380. Email: parswa2@yahoo.com.au Call: Australia: +61-2-4950 0345

M1125: Alliance invited w/ photo for handsome practicing Physician son (Urologist), born Feb 72, 6'3", 180 lb, divorcee, from family oriented attractive slim with good-height girls 25 to 32. Email: dtaruna@yahoo.com

M1127: Gujarati parents invite proposals w/ photo / profile for handsome amiable successful vegetarian US raised son, Aug 73, 5'8", 130 lb, BS EE, IT consultant, from, cultured educated girls. Email: vg\_139@yahoo.com

M1128: Jain parents invite proposals w/ photo / profile for handsome talented vegetarian US citizen son, March 79, 5'9", MD, doing radiology residency in NY, from well-educated vegetarian beautiful girls, preferably MD. Call: 516/294-1968 Email: ddugar@hotmail.com

AM455: Gujarati parents invite proposals w/ photo / bio-data for handsome fair vegetarian US citizen widower son, born Aug 66, 5'6", 146 lb, MS (polymer eng) MS (marketing) well positioned, from well educated pretty cultured Jain girls. Call: 410/672-6327 or 412/953-3723. Email: jayesh98@yahoo.com

AM456: Gujarati parents invite proposals w/ bio-data / photo for handsome vegetarian US citizen son, born Oct 80, 5'10", 150 lb, BS (EE), from reputed school, working as design engineer in reputed co., from cultured educated vegetarian pretty girls. Call: 214/547-0494. hdj51@hotmail.com

AM458: Successful Gujarati engineer working in computer security, born 77, 5'8", MS in progress, US citizen, cultured traveled athletic seeks partnership with US citizen open-minded cultured educated girls. Call: 443/739-3223. lotus87@mac.com

AM462: Gujarati parents invite proposals for talented successful vegetarian US citizen son, born Aug 77, 5'5", 112 lb, MS (Fin) well positioned with reputed bank as Fin Manager, from cultured educated girls. Call: 201/417-8917. Email: deepalshah02@yahoo.com

AM463: Gujarati parents invite response for handsome talented vegetarian US citizen son, Feb 75, 5'6", 130 lb, MD, doing 2nd Year internal medicine residency, from cultured educated vegetarian manglik girls. Email: mshah226@gmail.com Ph. 516/996-9851.

M864: Gujarati parents invite alliance for very handsome fair brilliant successful vegetarian US born son, Oct 76, 5'11", 140 lb, BS (civil engg), well positioned as Project Manager in a reputed co., from cultured educated pretty girls. Call: 334/283-5340. gosaliajay@hotmail.com

M945: Jain parents invite proposals for very handsome accomplished vegetarian US born son, June 73, 5'10", MD, doing fellowship at Harvard, from pretty cultured vegetarian educated with east-west blend girls. rajivrdoshi73@hotmail.com

M1129: Alliance invited from cultured pretty girls for very handsome personable professional vegetarian Gujarati boy, born Sept 73, 5'6", 130 lb, MS (Fin. engg. Uni of Michigan, Ann Arbor), currently well positioned in Singapore and willing to settle in USA. email: nishish@hotmail.com. Ph: +65-6345-8210.

M1130: Alliance invite for handsome vegetarian Gujarati boy, born March 77, 6'0", 165 lb, MD, doing fellowship in cardiology in NY, from cultured pretty vegetarian well educated girls. Call: 718/619-4277. drnishant@hotmail.com

M1131: Jain parents invite proposals w/ photo for handsome intelligent US raised son, Aug 78, 5'10", BS Accounting, pursuing law degree, expected May 06, from fair slim vegetarian cultured Gujarati girls. Email: clifton96\_2000@yahoo.com

M1132: Alliance invited for handsome talented vegetarian Gujarati boy, born June 78, 5'9", 154 lb, MS (comp sc), well employed in S. California, from Indian born / raised educated vegetarian Gujarati girls. Call: 714/595-4672. Email: has2bshah@gmail.com

M1133: Gujarati parents invite responses for good looking brilliant vegetarian son, born Nov 79, 5'1", 125 lb, MS (I.T.), well employed, from suitable educated cultured match. Call: 617/481-2153. Email: paragdesai79@hotmail.com

M1134: Gujarati parents invite proposals for handsome vegetarian successful US raised son, April 78, 5'6", MS (Intl busi-

ness), own business, from cultured educated girls with east-west blends. Call: 206/679-8734. abhisheth@gmail.com

AM466: Gujarati parents invite responses for good looking well-settled vegetarian US born son, Sept 75, 5'6", BA Chem., well employed as chemist with Fortune 500 Co., from educated pretty Gujarati vegetarian girls. Call: 910/392-2259. Email: samirmody@aol.com

AM467: Gujarati physician parents invite proposals w/ bio-data photo for handsome outgoing athletic US born son, April 77, 5'10", 165 lb, MD, 2nd year Radiology resident, from professional beautiful girls. Call: 847/272-5384. Email: BP4647@AIL.COM

AM468: Parents invite responses w/ bio-data photo for very handsome fair athletic US born son, Dec 74, 5'10", 145 lb, Ivy league JD / MBA, investment banker at top firm, from pretty fair professional girls. Email: shahnana5@hotmail.com

AM469: Gujarati parents invite responses for brilliant good looking vegetarian US born son, June 79, 5'8", JD (Cornell Uni.) practicing Attorney in NY state, from cultured educated pretty girls. 607/339-6250. email: adoshi@gmail.com

AM470: Parents invite proposals w/ bio-data photo, from outgoing Jain vegetarian girls, for their vegetarian US born son, April 80, 6'2", MD, doing first year orthopedic surgery residency. Email: marwadijain@hotmail.com

AM471: Jain parents invite proposals w/ bio-data photo for handsome brilliant US born son, Jan 76, 5'7", MS (EE), doing won bldg development business, from well educated pretty girls w/ family values. Call: 909/594-8705. Email: sumervardhan@yahoo.com

AM472: Gujarati parents invite responses for good looking vegetarian US citizen son, Jan 76, 5'7", 150 lb, MD, from cultured professional vegetarian girls. Call: 973/403-7649. Email: VEGDOC-TOR@YAHOO.COM

# WORLD COMMUNITY SERVICE

## “Maharashtra Including Greater Bombay Victims Relief Fund”

Jai Jinendra.

World Community Services (WCS) of Federation of Jain Associations in North America (JAINA) has launched Maharashtra Including Greater Bombay Victims Relief Fund” to raise the fund to help the victims of the worst rain fall in India in last 100 years.

On Tuesday 26th July 2005 there was a unprecedented rainfall in Maharashtra including Greater Bombay. It was a single largest rainfall of 39”in period of 6 hours ever in India. Six days of heavy rains in the densely populated city of Bombay have resulted in a tragedy that has just begun to unfold. Sudden, heavy downpours turned roads into fierce rivers. Most deaths came from collapsing walls, drowning and electrocutions. Thousands of Homes and huts were washed away in the raging waters. Wet soil is causing landslides in many areas burying dozens of people in an instant. This is a National Calamity. Many areas are completely cut off with other parts of the state. Victims need basic necessities like, water, food, clothes and shelter. There is a real danger of water borne disease might create a new round of calamity.

Previously with your support we have raised over\$200,000 for Tsunami victims, \$750,000 for Gujarat Earthquake, \$100,000 for Latur Earthquake Fund, more than \$70,000 for Kutch Cyclone Relief Fund and then for the Turkey earthquake Fund, Orissa and Kosovo. This time we request your generous help for this humane cause.

We Jains are the steadfast believers of “Jiv Daya” and “Ahimsa” and it is our moral obligation to request to respond to this calamity and help its' victims. We can't bring back the dead but let us help millions fighting for survival. Your contribution will make a remarkable difference in the lives of these unfortunate people.

- We recognize that many different organizations have started such fund raising drive and you may wonder why you should send your donations through JAINA. Here JAINA's past record should help you decide:

- JAINA's relief operation will be carried out with a local partnering NGO so that help will reach immediately rather than getting mired in any type of red tape.

- JAINA does not charge any administrative cost to the relief fund. Every penny donated to the fund will go towards relief effort. In fact JAINA volunteers and partners will add their presence, experience and effort to the fund as it is delivered to the affected area.

- Funds collected by JAINA will be spent in completely non-violent manner keeping in mind Jain way. Our efforts will be directed in helping Victims. We request you to send your tax deductible (USA) contribution payable to JAINA and mail to:

Prakash Mehta , 2960 Mother Well Ct, Oak Hill, VA 20171 Phone: 703-352-8340, 703-318-8252 Pmehta@psi-int.com

Sincerely yours,

B.S. Ajmera  
Chairman

Prakash Mehta  
Co-Chairman

Bhadresh Dhila  
Co-Chairman

Kirit Daftary  
President, JAINA

Dr. Dhiraj Shah  
Founder, WCS

“A PERSON WHO SERVES THE SICK, SERVES ME” - LORD MAHAVIR

AT THE 13TH BIENNIAL JAINA CONVENTION 2005,

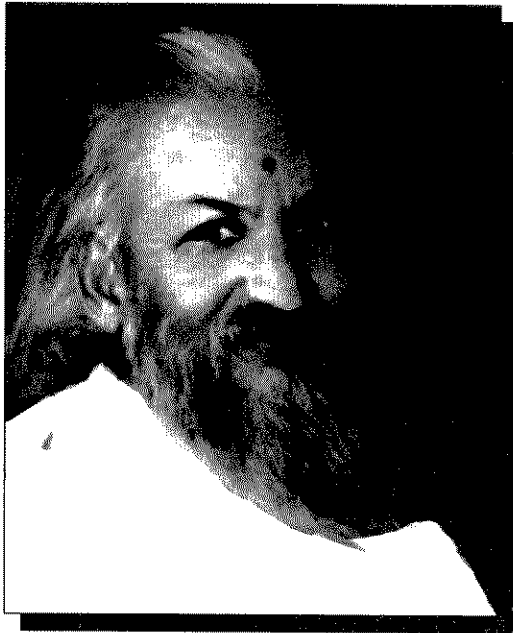
The Federation of Jain Associations in North America (JAINA)  
& The Jain Center of Northern California  
Honored and Celebrated

*Life Time Achievements*  
*Of*  
**Acharya Sushil Kumarji Maharaj**  
*and*  
**Gurudev Shree Chitrabhanuji**

For their vision, motivation, & support in the formation of JAINA in 1981

For their spiritual leadership and guidance to JAINA & Jain Centers

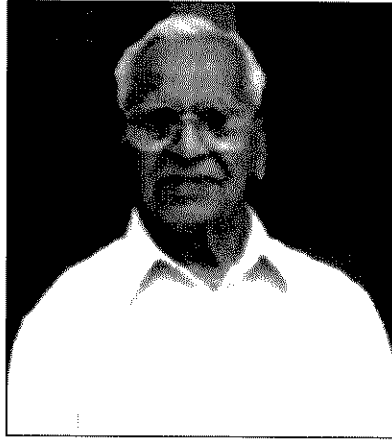
For their unwavering dedication to propagation of Jainism in North America



By proclaiming and Honoring them as our

“Founding Spiritual Leaders”

## JAINA RATNA AWARD



*Mansukhlal Doshi*  
*Jain society of Metropolitan Chicago*

## JAINA PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS

1. Jain Vishwa Bharati Institute, Ladnu, India
2. Dr. Mahendra and Chandra Varia, Kentucky
3. Mr. Dilip V. Shah, Philadelphia

JAINA YOUTH  
RECOGNITION AWARDS

Sonia Ghelani, Jain Society of Northern Texas  
 Rakhi Jain, Jain Center of Greater Boston  
 Ms. Shefali Mehta, Jain Center of So. California  
 Paulomi G. Shah, Jain Society of Toronto  
 Shibani H. Shah, Jain society of Metro. Chicago

JAINA ADULT  
RECOGNITION AWARDS

Ashok Choksi, Jain Society of Greater Detroit  
 Mahendra Desai, Jain Center of Southern California  
 Dr. Anant Jain, Jain Society of Northern Texas  
 Dr. Parveen K. Jain, Jain Center of N. California  
 Dr. Vinay Jain, Jain Center of Greater Boston  
 Savitaben M. Mehta, Jain Center of So. California  
 Prakash Mody, Jain Society of Toronto  
 Arvind R. Shah, Jain Society of Greater Detroit  
 Ashok R. Shah, Jain society of Metro. Washington  
 Manu J. Shah, Jain society of Metro. Washington  
 Sanjay Shah, Jain Center of Greater Boston  
 Virendra S. Shah, Jain Center of New Jersey

# 2005 JAINA CONVENTION

## BEHIND-THE-SCENE PERSPECTIVE

(HOSTED BY JAIN CENTER OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA)

*Contributions: Dilip V Shah, Girish Shah and Kirit Daftary*

Every two years, since 1981 Jains of North America gather at a JAINA convention to help them celebrate and learn more about their heritage. They meet old friends and make new acquaintances. In pursuit of their Jain identity, they listen to scholars of Jainism, participate in panel discussions, view exhibits, buy books, enjoy cultural programs and hear live performances of renowned artists from India. This past July 4th weekend more than 3,500 Jains from all corners of North America and abroad participated in the 13th biennial JAINA convention, hosted by Jain Center of Northern California (JCNC) which was held at the Santa Clara Convention Center, Santa Clara, California, in the heart of the Silicon Valley. The seat of technology, sunny disposition of California and sweat equity of JCNC produced a grand convention - a glorious environment that was conducive to smooth and precise execution of an ambitious but carefully designed program.

The convention line-up included 70+ speakers and 250+ sessions, special youth programs and competitions, Jain networking, art exhibition, mela, Jain cooking demonstrations, youth cooking competition, evening entertainment and cultural programs, to name a few. For those who came before the convention, there were pre-convention tours of the Northern California tourist attractions. "This convention stressed religious lectures," said Kirit Daftary. "by offering multiple levels of courses, for beginners to advanced in Gujarati, English and Hindi," he added.

For this convention, JCNC proposed three major ideas as focal points for all program planning. 1) Celebrate the start of the 25th year of JAINA by recognizing and honoring two of its founding spiritual leaders, 2) a session on "unity in diversity" with messages of unity from five Acharyas/spiritual leaders from India one each from five Jain traditions, 3) a theme that addresses the challenges faced by the Jain community in North America.

The convention board had established one major goal for the host committee, "all of our attendees should receive an excellent value for the time and money". This was to be achieved by: a) Providing superb hospitality, b) Creating excellent event filled activities, c) Lasting learning experience, d) Exceeding their expectations. All through the 18 months of planning, these guidelines were used to make tradeoffs in decisions, which made the decision process simple,

**Convention Theme -** The theme, "Extending Jain Heritage in Western Environment", was chosen to address everyday life as a Jain, balancing life between home and work, and how to preserve and extend the heritage. In addition to the challenges of inter-religious and inter-racial marriages, the community has been under pressure to maintain unity. The theme allowed speaker after speaker to echo the need for unity and present ideas on Jain Way of Life (JWOL).

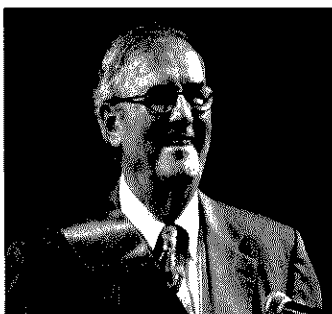


**Convention Opening Blessings -** The first session of the convention was blessings from our spiritual leaders. Over 500 people assembled in the theatre hall for the session. In addition to their blessings, their message was "we all can be known as Jains without the prefixes of Digamaber - Shwetamber" and "how we all can strengthen harmony and unity". Gurudev Shri Chitrabhanuji, Acharya Shri Chandnaji, Amrendra Muniji Maharaj, Bhuvnesh Muniji Maharaj, Jinchandraji Maharaj, Roop Chandji Maharaj, Manak Muniji Maharaj, Sadhviji Shubhamji, Samaniji Madhur Pragyaji, Sadhviji Vibhaji, and Samanijis - Charitra Pragyaji, Jayant Pragyaji, Parimal Pragyaji, Sanmati Pragyaji, and Shukla Pragyaji - all spoke for about five minutes on unity. The program was conducted by Ashok Sethi, Harendra Shah, and Praveen Jain of JCNC. All these Sadhus, Sadhvis and Scholars speaking in unison on "Jain Unity" set the



moral tone of the convention. Dr. Parveen Jain, chair of Programming committee says, "In this convention, we wanted to visibly show our respect to the sadhu-sadhvis. This was done by having this opening blessing session, by having separate seating section on the stage, by having a VIP host sub-committee who looked after their hospitality, etc".

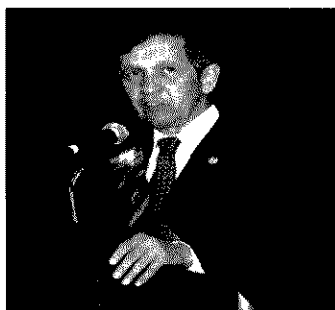
**Convention Opening Ceremony** - The opening ceremony of the convention on July 2nd was the most widely attended event at the convention. An Olympic like torch was paraded into the convention hall and was received by JCNC Chair Dr. Parveen Jain. Anop Vora in his welcoming speech "marveled at the growth of JAINA over the years and implored every one to forget our sectarian differences and get involved in JAINA to make it a powerful spiritual force in the whole world". Kirit Daftary in his welcoming remarks said that "Via the convention, we want to re-affirm the concept of unity in diversity whereby we follow our traditions in harmony with others, especially with the growth of the Jain community in North America".



Dr. Bill Leshner, chair of the Council Parliament of World's Religions delivered one of the three keynote speeches. Dr. Leshner spoke of the relevance of the Jain principles - Ahimsa, Aprigraha and Anekantvad in today's world. "And it is clear to me that Jains have a great deal to share indeed!", said Dr.

Leshner, adding, "Your signature doctrine of non-violence is what many believers in the other religions find precious in the Jain religion. You have much to tell about how Jains live out this doctrine in the world today and how this great spiritual insight can contribute to our common search for harmony among the religions of the world."

An electrifying speech of the convention was delivered by Congressman Dennis Kucinich of Ohio. The former Democratic contender for the White House is a vegan vegetarian and a practitioner of Ahimsa. As a Presidential candidate, he proposed the creation of a Department of Peace.



He told of how he refused to kill or remove a wasp nest on his window sill and instead got the entire family to watch everyday and learn how the wasps tended to their nest. His frequent use of Jain phrases in his speech drew a standing ovation and cheers from the crowd. When asked by his colleagues "why would he fly across the country to deliver a fifteen minute speech", he replied "the principles of the Jain philosophy, are more relevant now in Western civilization than they ever been."

For the first time a youth was invited to be the keynote speaker to promote wider youth participation in the convention and to recognize that they are the leaders of tomorrow. Viral Mehta was chosen to address the Convention for his exemplary work in volunteerism. As a volunteer coordinator for Charity Focus, he spoke of the role every one can play for the betterment of society through volunteer work.



Shailesh & Kalpa Mehta of San Francisco and Arvind & Jaya Shah of Detroit were the Co-Sanghpatis of this convention who lighted the lamp declaring the convention open. Their life of philanthropy, service and abiding faith in Jain values were an inspiring example for all who heard them speak.

**25 Years of JAINA and Life Time Achievement Awards** - On Sunday, plenary sessions were held to celebrate initiation of 25th year of JAINA and Jain Unity. A documentary on "25 Years of JAINA" was prepared specially for the convention and it received much praise. During this 25 year celebration session, JAINA and JCNC honored Late Acharya Shri Sushil Kumarji and Gurudev Shri Chitrabhanuji as "Founding Spiritual Leaders" with a proclamation of Life Time Achievement award. They were honored for their vision, motivation, and support in the formation of JAINA in 1981 and their dedication to the North American Jain community. Anop Vora spoke about the life of Acharya Sushil Kumarji and Kirit Daftary recited the proclamation. Mamata Yagala and Niramla Hanke talked about how their lives were changed by Gurudev Chitrabhanuji whereas Bhavin Shah, a 28 year old youth who had met Gurudev 25 years ago, recited the proclamation. Both of these spiritual leaders promoted a vision of non-sectarian Jain association upon their arrival in the West (Gurudev Chitrabhanuji in 1970 and Acharya Sushil Kumarji in 1975). Over the years JAINA conventions have proved their vision so right that today JAINA is known and admired throughout the world as a unifying force in the Jain world.

**Unity in Diversity Session** - The above session was followed by a panel discussion session on "unity in diversity of Jains". For this session, special messages of unity were recorded in India by interviewing five Acharya/spiritual leaders from each of the five Jain traditions (sects), Acharya Padamsagarji (Shwetamber), Acharya Bahubali (Digambar), Acharya Shiv Muniji (Sthanakvasi), Acharya Mahaprajnaji (Terapanthi) and honorable Parasbhaiji (Mumukshus of Shrimad Rajchandra). Each of them sent a strong message that unity is important and achievable. Some of them even urged to replace our traditional sectarian name with "Mahavir Sangh". "It was heartening that these Acharyas show the importance of unity and agreed to be video taped", says Prem Jain, coordinator for Unity session. The panel at the convention consisted of Gurudev Chitrabhanuji, Acharya Chandnaji, Samani Madhur Pragyaaji, Dr. Atul Shah,

and Dharmil Purohit. The recurring theme in the discussion on unity was the idea that the INCLUSIVNESS and not UNIFORMITY is the key to the goal of achieving Jain unity. A special proclamation of unity was signed by monks and scholars present there. Almost 3000 people in the hall stood up and repeated the words as Gurudev Shri Chitrabhanuji read the preamble. Kirit Daftary and Anop Vora recited the pledge. Anop Vora, who initiated this "Declaration and Pledge" over six months ago observed many moist eyes and said "This was the most moving experience of my life and I am overwhelmed by the emotional response of the conventioners".

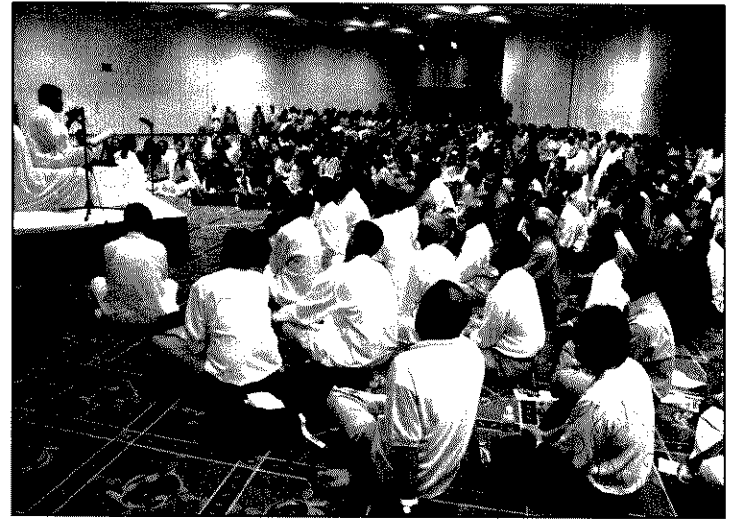
**Program & Activities Structure** - The entire program was structured around the core Convention Theme, "Extending Jain Heritage in Western Environment" and all the sessions were planned in support of the theme. The sessions were grouped into tracks with each track having specific general topic. A track consisted of sessions and workshops that allowed further deeper exploration of the topic. There were 130 sessions on religious topics, 15 sessions on theme tracks, 10 sessions on social, health, and women's topics, 1 CME session, 3 sessions in Jain center forum, Jain cooking classes, 11 sessions early morning to invigorate the body and mind, a multi-faceted youth program of sessions and activities. As you see from the description below, the entire program balanced the interest of aspirants of all traditions, Shwetamber, Digambar, Sthānakavāsi, Terapanthi and Mumukshus of Shrimad Rājchandraji to strengthen the unity and harmony among all Jains. With so many sessions, there was a need for a large team of moderators who would manage each session. Prerana Saraiya built a team of 40 volunteers who became moderators for these sessions. To assure everyone knew what they had to do, two training sessions were held to armed them with program information. The team of Amit Jain, Himanshu Jain, Kamlesh Mehta and Nirmal Baid, managed the plenary sessions with many innovative videos and presentations.

**Theme Tracks** - Two tracks were scheduled to discuss topics related to the convention theme which included seven sessions and workshops. The session topics were: a) Extending Jain heritage in Western environment, b) Sharing and raising awareness of Jain philosophy, c) Jain Learning & Education: Opportunities in the western world, Bringing Together the Jain Traditions, or, not!, d) Historical and contemporary view of Jain literature, e) Jain Way of Life - Professional Lifestyle, f) Sharing best practices in running a Jain Center.

Several JAINA committee members participated in the theme tracks. Naresh Jain, Dr. Hema Pokharna shared their work in Interfaith committee and urged all centers to participate in Inter-faith groups. Dr. Kokila Doshi explained that extending Jainism in the west will have to be knowledge based compared to faith and ritual orientation in India. Yogendra Jain of JAINA Long Range Planning Committee shared JAINA's vision and findings particularly in reference to the young people turning away from religion. Prof. Jagdish Sheth explained that there is a fundamental shift in society from institution driven to the individual driven values and views. He also urged to invite more

non-Jains to our temples.

The workshop sessions explored these topics and developed recommendations. It was a good learning experience not only for the attendees but also for the JAINA to take this thoughts for further enhancements on functioning of the JAINA.



**Religious Tracks** - There were 130 sessions in these religious tracks from fundamentals of Jainism to advance topics like Tattvartha Sutra. These sessions were offered in three languages Gujarati, Hindi and English. The sessions were grouped by tracks, each with its own major subject and session topics within it. The track subjects ranged from condensed course on fundamentals of Jainism, Advanced Religious topics, Tattvarth Sutra, Jain Way of Life by Shrimad Rājchandra, Shrivakachar, Great Jain Teachers, Multi-facets of Jainism, Jain literature & Dharma, Jain history & contributions, Jain Rites & Rituals. Harendra Shah, coordinator for religious tracks had the tough job of balancing all these subjects, assigning them to speakers but he managed to deliver a great program. To assure a balance between various traditions, there was a team from each tradition who was supporting religious coordinator. To support these large number of sessions, 50+ scholars and Sadhu Sadhis were invited to the convention. The religious speakers included our sadu-sadhis (as listed above) and Dr. Rakeshbhai Jhaveri, Pt. Dhirubhai Mehta, Shantibhai Kothari, Dr. Hukumchand Bharill, Pramodaben Chitrabhanu, Tarlaben Doshi, Dr. Sekeharchand Jain, Dr. Snehrani Jain, Diptiben Shah, Dr. J. Upadhaya, Hemanbhai Gandhi, Amit Shah, Dr. Abhayakumar



Jain, Dr. Jagdish Prasad Jain, Pdt. Khemchandra Jain, Praksh Jain, Dr. N.L. Kachhara, Arvind Shah, Rakshaben Shah, Pravin K Shah, Manubhai Doshi, Girishbhai Shah, Dr. Yashwant Malaiya, Dr. Jitendra Shah, Hira Ratan Manek, Dr. N. P. Jain, Dr. Sudhir V Shah, Pt. Jayesh Khona, Dr. Hema Pokharna and Chandrakant Mehta.

**Youth Programs & Activities** - With nearly a third of the attendees being the youth this year, there were a variety of events for the younger generation organized by Nita Itchhaporia, Arpan Shah, and Chirag Shah as Chair and co-chairs of Youth Programming Committee. The youth program extended the convention theme as "Extending Jain Heritage in the Western Environment through Charity, Compassion and Communication". There were three social events going on simultaneously in the evenings and multiple activities both on and off site. This was the first convention in which a full day was devoted to charity and compassion with youth not only hearing about charity but by actually doing hands on charity work in multiple different venue sites both on site and off site. One of Bay area youth designed a special Charity T-Shirt for all the youth to wear so they can focus on the seva and not on their dress. Programs were designed for youth doing seva for the environment, animal rights and random acts of kindness, homelessness and much more. They had partner organizations that supported them such as: Charity Focus, Be-The-Cause, and Liwa Communications. It was amazing mixture of resolve, ingenuity, focus and talented youths.



The most popular area was the Jain Networking Forum. Individuals wanted to join out of friendship, relationship, and networking

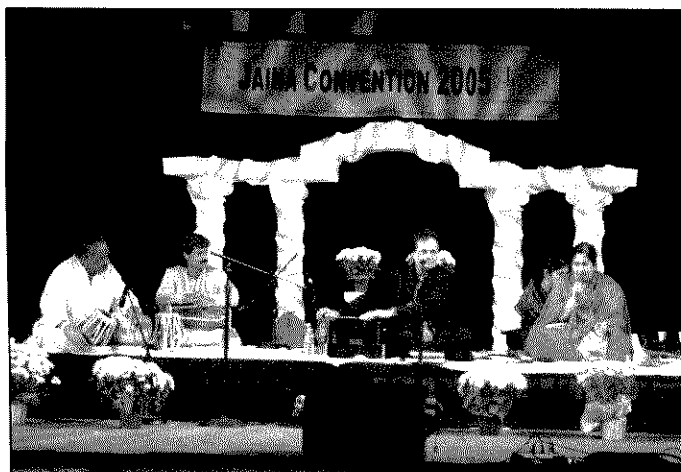
for marriage. More than 500 youth joined in before they closed the doors due to capacity limit disappointing many. Iron Chef a cooking competition was attended by 300 youths and Tarla

Dalal who was one of the three Judges, was impressed by the interest youth showed in cooking. Dhruvil Purohit, a raw food vegan, demonstrated various recipes for raw food diet.

And as always, most attended event with the youth was the cruise which took close to 600 youth around the San Francisco Bay. A movie-mela night for the younger youth too young to join the cruise was also highly popular. Lecture sessions on Saturday and Sunday were well subscribed. Dr. Luskin spoke on Forgiveness, Robert Arnett spoke on Unity in Diversity, East and West, Dr. Schwartz spoke to the JNF group on Relationships and Communication and Miscommunication between men and women and Dr. Singhvi talked about higher consciousness in marriage.

The Youth Programming Committee also organized the 7th Jain Academic Bowl. The Jain Academic Bowl is a friendly competition that tests the knowledge of youth and is held at every JAINA Convention. The teams compete with other teams in a three round game-show style Academic Bowl. The two teams with the best record and highest number of wins proceed to the finals round. At this convention, teams from Boston, Chicago, Northern California (Bay Area), and Pittsburgh participated. After three rounds, Chicago and Pittsburgh advanced to the finals round. Harder questions were asked throughout the final round leading to a victory by Chicago.

**Mind-Body Programs & Social-Health-Women's Forum** - The Convention Activities started from 6:30 a.m. It offered from Pratikrman, Sun Gazing workshops, Yoga, Bhangra and Bollywood Aerobics to Preksha Meditation. Swami Shrutpragya showed various yogic Aasans to attendees. That session was fully packed even at that early morning. Anuradha Paudwal and her daughter Kavita recited Bhktamar Stotra in their melodious voices. The Bhkatamber Stotra was also explained after every four stanzas by Muni Jinchandraji. Over 10 sessions on topics covering health, women's perspectives, senior citizen perspectives, child raising and medical education for the attendees interested in social issues. The topics covered included Empowerment of women thorough religion, Women's health, High prevalence of CVD in South Asians, senior forum, parenting forum etc.



Jain Center Forum & JAINA Meetings - Dr. Nitin Shah organized Jain Centers forum to present papers on their center management, practices and activities. This exchange is very useful as we all can learn from each other rather than re-invent the wheel. Twelve centers participated in these forums. Their recommendations included opening up the temples for senior's care and other services for all; increasing non-Jain involvement in functions and activities; involvement of post college youth; organizing more Jain youth camps.

The Directors of JAINA, Presidents of various Jain Sanghs were briefed on the very crucial work that is being carried out by the Long Range Planning Committee of JAINA. Under the guidance of Dr. Deepak Jain, Dean of the Kellogg School of Management, a core group of 25 JAINA leaders met for three days in April in Chicago on Kellogg campus and plans to meet periodically to develop a strategic plan for the next 25 years for the future of Jainism in North America and prepare JAINA leaders to manage it.

The Board of Directors of JAINA also met for their annual meeting and the results of the election for the members of the Executive Committee for 2005-2007 were announced. Kirit Daftary of Texas was elected as President and Dilip V. Shah of Philadelphia was elected as First Vice President. All other posts were uncontested. Two industrial leaders from India, Pratapbhai Bhogilal and Mahendrabhai Mehta, spoke briefly on charitable works their respective organizations were doing and offered their cooperation to JAINA for working together on common agenda.

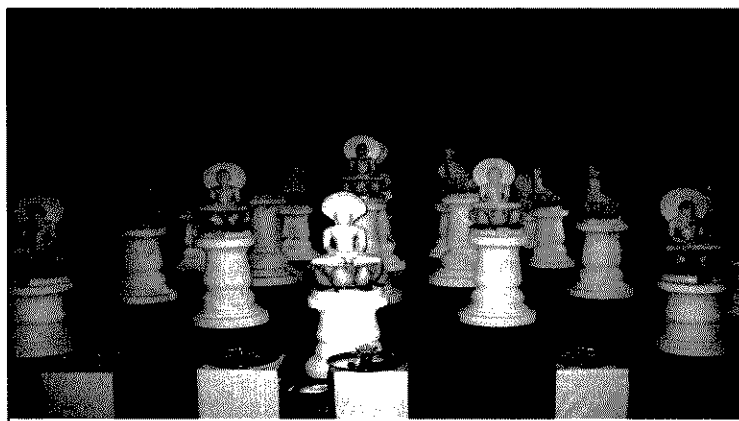
Closing Ceremony - The Closing Ceremony, besides having traditional "thanks", included a message by all monks on defining the theme "Extending Jain Heritage in Western Environment". The session was moderated by Nirmal Dosi. He sang Navkar and Manglik in classical raga. Highlight of the closing ceremony was handing over of the Olympic torch to the JAINA's new President to carry on the torch to the next convention.

Speaking on environmental protection, Amrendra Muni stressed the importance of Jain Jiv Siddhants, Bhuvanesh Muni suggested that Jain economics and ecology should be taught in universities, Acharya Chandanaji suggested that selfless helping and giving should become a normal part of everyday life. Gurudev Shri Chitrabhanuji implored everyone to practice self realization through Ahimsa, Anekantvad and Aparigraha. Muni Roopchandji, speaking on Karma Mukti and Karma Purti emphasized the value of teaching unity to our younger generation. Manak Muni implored every Jain to at least keep some wow everyday. Sadhvi Shubhamji detailed ways to answer questions of everyday life like elimination of Dowry system and Samanji suggested that Jain education for the younger generation must combine Jain literature of all four traditions. Charitya Pragyaji asked that our message should be tailored for both the Jain Community and non- Jain Community.

An International Symposium - The Ahimsa Center at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona organized an international symposium on "Ahimsa and Aprigraha in Contemporary Contexts". The Symposium was co-sponsored by JAINA. Anop Vora, the President of JAINA, inaugurated the symposium. Dr. Tara Sethia, the Convener of this symposium, spoke about the multiple dimensions of Ahimsa and Aprigraha and their practical significance in the contemporary social, political and ecological contexts.

The symposium featured an international roster of scholars and academics along with key business leaders. Speakers included Drs. Cromwell Crawford, Robert J. Delbonta, Navindra Jain, Prem Jain, Shailesh J. Mehta, Nirmal Sethia, Jagdish Sheth, Michael Tobias, Kristi Wiley, Pratap Bhogilal, Dr. Surendra Bothara, Dr. Peter Fluegel, and Dr. Anne Vallely. In the course of the day, these experts interacted with the audience on a variety of topics including Ahimsa and Aparigraha in Jain art & literature, Jain traditions and their significance in the contexts of globalization and the growing culture of consumerism. The concluding session examined the relevance of Ahimsa and Aparigraha in the world of business. Shri Pratap Bhogilal was honored at the symposium for his numerous contributions in promoting Jain Studies.

ART Exhibit - One of the exhibit halls was converted into an Art Exhibition Hall. This hall included art exhibits of paintings, booths for commercial enterprises, JAINA and Jain Centers. Rita Shah and Neeraj Jain (coordinators for the Art exhibit area) worked with all artists and committee members to create this unique hall. Ms. Ekta Sancheti and Vinita Kothari of New York opened the Art Exhibit on Friday July 1st, 2005.



Dr. Nipul Shah and volunteers from the Jain Society of San Diego created a beautiful "Jinalaya" in the center of the Art exhibit hall. This was set up in reflection pool, consisting of 24 white marble idols of Tirthankars gathered in an imaginary place. The reflection pool added to the ambiance and was complimented by lights, sounds and aromas. Dr. K. T. Shah of Houston and Dr. Bharat Tolia of Detroit opened the Jinalaya on Saturday. The opening ceremonies of the Jinalaya began with beautiful slokas by Kirit Bavisi accompanied by serene

music and magical lighting. During the convention there were periodic stavans, artis, pujas and live classical flute music. Rajendrabhai Dalal from India conducted a Parswa Padmavati Poojan one afternoon and Uvasaggaharam Poojan on another afternoon.

JAINA commissioned the JAINA Exhibit committee (Sudhir & Anita Shah) to prepare an exhibition on Jain philosophy. This 65 panel exhibit was presented for the very first time at the JAINA convention and has received high praises from Gurudev Chitrabhanuji and Pramodaben, Muni Shri Jinchandraji, Sadhvi Shri Subhamaji and Samani Charitrapraghaji. All the panels of exhibition can be viewed on the JAINA website: "<http://www.jaina.org/artexhibit/exhibit-panels/>". There were paintings by Alaka Dalal, Chandu Desai, Yogendra Sethi, Vaishali Kothari, Surbhi Pandya and humorous sketches by Mahendra Shah on the lives of Immigrant Indians in America. Internationally acclaimed photographer Robert Arnett also presented samplings of some of his photographs of India.

Mela - For the first time in JAINA Convention, it began with a Mela in the afternoon. JAINA President Anop Vora performed the opening ceremony of the Mela on Friday Afternoon. It featured Prannic Healing, Acupressure, Massage therapy with music, Vastu Shastra, Gemstone Therapy based on Jain thinking, color therapy, Face makeup & Hair set with non animal tested products, Mehendi and Rangoli. Minaxi Sethi coordinated this event with many professionals in each of these fields for their time.

Pre-Convention Tours - JAINA Convention broke new grounds by organizing tours for four days before the convention to four major California attractions. These four tours included beautiful Yosemite Valley, Monterey peninsula including world famous Monterey Bay Aquarium, San Francisco City, and San Jose's famous Tech Museum. Some 50 people took advantage of each of these tours. "They enjoyed these tours making their convention even more fruitful that they requested that tours be part of all conventions", says Smitin Mehta, chair of the hospitality committee.

Evening Entertainment - All of the above may sound like scholarly pursuit of high ideas but overall the convention was indeed a fun place to be. Nitin Shah and his cultural team

organized these programs and the competition rules. On the opening night there was Raas and Garba night with live music by the Satellite group from Bombay. An Inter-Center competition - cultural program - on Saturday brought cheering audience on their feet demanding encore. JCNC entry in that competition won the perpetual trophy which will proudly be displayed at Jain Bhawan for next two years. An evening of singing by Anuradha Paudwal and Manhar Udhas on Sunday was a real gem. People were seen running out of dining hall to secure good seats in the auditorium long before starting of the program. Audience was dancing on the front of the stage to the rhythm of



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extended their program by an hour lasting well past midnight.

Marketing and Publicity - From the outset, the convention committee had made a goal to make sure that all Jains in North America were well aware of the convention programs and activities. Hence, marketing team (Deepak Mithani, Purvi Shah, Harish & Usha Shah and Vaishali Kothari) produced one-page flyer in October 2004, a four page brochure in December 2004, and a 16 page brochure in March 2005, convention souvenir, and program guide. "For our team, the convention started in August 2004 and continued through July 2005 to develop this material", says Jay Kamdar, chair of the Marketing committee.

A 200 page colorful Souvenir with congratulatory messages from President Bush, Governor Schwarzenegger, California U.S. Senators Barbara Boxer and Diane Feinstein and our spiritual leaders was distributed to all attendees. This souvenir was produced in less than three months by the team lead by editor, Pravin Turakhia. A programming Guide with daily schedules and listings of scholar's biographies helped in navigating the three day convention. There were so many sessions that it was difficult to put them even on two pages.



In addition to print media, the marketing team working with technology team used the email to disseminate the convention information to the community. A convention web site was designed to provide the information on convention. Media is very important to get our message out which requires to develop a close relationship with them. Sunil Vora and Nitin Talsania managed the media relationship on each coast respectively.

**Registration, Finance, & Fund Raising** - For this convention, online registration system was developed that included registration for the convention as well as tours, hotels, and youth activities. Over 95 % of the attendees registered online. "what we did not realize, is the volume of inquiries and changes, we would receive", says, Anil Deora, vice-chair of Finance committee, adding, "but we were able to add more team members to handle the volume". The convention badges and registration packages were prepared ahead of the time and sorted by house address as recommended by the Cincinnati convention team which helped out in making the registration process a breeze for the attendees and volunteers. They were in and out in no time, so they could spend time socializing and make room for others.

Fund raising was a major task to keep the registration cost low and to raise funds for JAINA's activities and future JAINA conventions. Many smaller Sanghs participated in major way to show their support of JAINA and to foster the message of Unity. Kundi Kapadia and her team lead this fundraising effort including two Co-Sanghpatis for this convention.

**FOOD Service** - "You want to please a man, then please his stomach first", this was principle used in food planning. They will forgive you for any of the shortcomings, if you feed them well. After a bidding process, a food contract was negotiated with Jay Bharat Foods, a well known West Coast caterer to meet our budget without compromising on the quality or the quantity. Vegans also had delicious varieties. Attendees were fed varieties of Punjabi, Chinese, Rajasthani and traditional Gujarati dishes per Jain traditions. Pramod Patel and Arvind Patel (chair and co-chair of food committee) leveraged their experience with other large conventions to plan this convention. JAINA is thankful to the BAPS volunteers for an excellent service they provided for all four days. The Food committee team, lead by Arvind Patel and Jashvant Shah, was always in the dining hall, preparing for the next meal.

**Hospitality Services** - To meet our initial goal of lasting experience for the attendees, the hospitality committee included hotel reservations, tours, transportation, VIP Hosting, Emergency Medical, child care services, and information booth subcommittees. The key members of this team included Ashok Sethi, Datta Shah, Trupti Mehta, Narendra Mehta, Surinder Jain, Sharad Desai and, Sunita Desai. The bus service was also available to visit the Jain Bhawan in Milpitas. Many took advantage of this to do Darshan and participated in Aarti. "We must congratulate you for the excellent service to all sadhu-shadhvis for all four days by your VIP Hosting team", commented Pramodaben Chitrabhanu.

**Hotels** - For the first time, JAINA Convention took the responsibility to make hotel reservations for the attendees by including it in the convention registration. "Although this turned out to be a very tedious job then anticipated, it was well worth it as we were able to accommodate all attendees in the convention hotels", says Ritesh Shah, vice chair of Hospitality committee. Having controlled the hotel rooms, the convention was able to meet the required room night guarantees to the hotels.

**Convention Facilities & Technology Infrastructure** - The Santa Clara Convention center and Westin hotel were attached which made easy for people to move around thereby making the traffic smoother. Everybody mingled at the hotel facility even after all programs were over.

Of all the functions, this is a function that everybody takes for granted. If everything goes smoothly, then it is expected but if it does not, then everyone will notice. Ketan Itchhaporia and Harshad Shah (Chair and Co-chair) worked with all teams to have the facilities ready. Ketan commented, "Convention center staff understood dynamic situation of our programs and activities and accommodated them". Such changes were caused by the last minute rush we had in single day registration and the youth activity (e.g. JNF registration doubled in last two weeks with half of it onsite). The traffic flow was smooth, probably due to all those directional and schedule signs, designed and developed by Bharat Kamdar.

A convention of this size needed significant technology infrastructure which included convention website, online registration system, Audio Video system, computers for onsite and networking. "Our biggest challenge was to get the most out of our technology contracts (which are generally very expensive) to get the best at the least price", says, Devang Shah, chair of Technology committee. The key members of the tech team were Dhanendra Shah for A/V and Rajal Shah for web technology.

As the famous advertisement says, "Create memory of events, as life is all about memories". For that reason, the professional photographers and videographers were retained to take photos and videos of most of the convention. These photos and videos (17 DVDs) are now available for your collection. These DVDs can be obtained online at the convention web site by clicking (<http://secure.jaina.org/dvdorder.jsp>).

**Thanks** - JAINA has continuously strived to make each JAINA Convention better than ever. JAINA thanks everyone for their contribution, participation and support of the convention. This was the third JAINA Convention, which was done in collaboration with the local Sangh. At the outset, JCNC had promised to raise the bar for JAINA convention and they have succeeded in doing so.

The writers gratefully acknowledges co-operation of Shashi Desai who contributed most of the photographs in this report. This report also received help from many committee chair persons and friends too numerous to enumerate here.

# DECLARATION AND PLEDGE FOR GLOBAL JAIN UNITY

JAINA IS ENTERING ITS SILVER ANNIVERSARY YEAR. IN THE LAST 25 YEARS, JAINA HAS GROWN FROM 4 JAIN CENTERS AT ITS INCEPTION TO 65 JAIN CENTERS WITH A MEMBERSHIP EXCEEDING 100,000 IN NORTH AMERICA. ON THIS AUSPICIOUS OCCASION LET US ALL PLEDGE TO STAY UNITED AND WORK TOGETHER UNDER JAINA TO MOTIVATE THE WORLDWIDE JAIN COMMUNITY TO FOLLOW THE MANTRA OF "UNITY IN DIVERSITY".

FOR CENTURIES WE HAVE SEEN OURSELVES BELONGING TO DIGAMBAR OR SHWETAMBAR OR STHANAKWASI OR TERAPANTHI OR TO ONE OF THE OTHER SMALLER SECTS, CONTRARY TO BHAGWAN MAHAVIR'S TEACHINGS. OUR DIFFERENCES ARE IN RITES AND RITUALS, NOT IN FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES. OVER THE YEARS THIS DIVISION HAS HINDERED OUR PROGRESS AND MADE US LOSE THE OWNERSHIP AND USE OF JAIN HOLY PLACES RECENTLY. FOR A RELIGION WHOSE FOUNDATION IS IN AHIMSA, ANEKANTWAD AND APARIGRAHA, THIS IS HIGHLY UNFORTUNATE; ESPECIALLY FOR A VERY SMALL COMMUNITY OF OURS. WE NEED TO REALIZE THAT WHAT UNITES US IS FAR MORE IMPORTANT AND SIGNIFICANT THAN WHAT MAY APPEAR TO KEEP US DIVIDED AND SPLINTERED INTO SECTS AND SUB-SECTS.

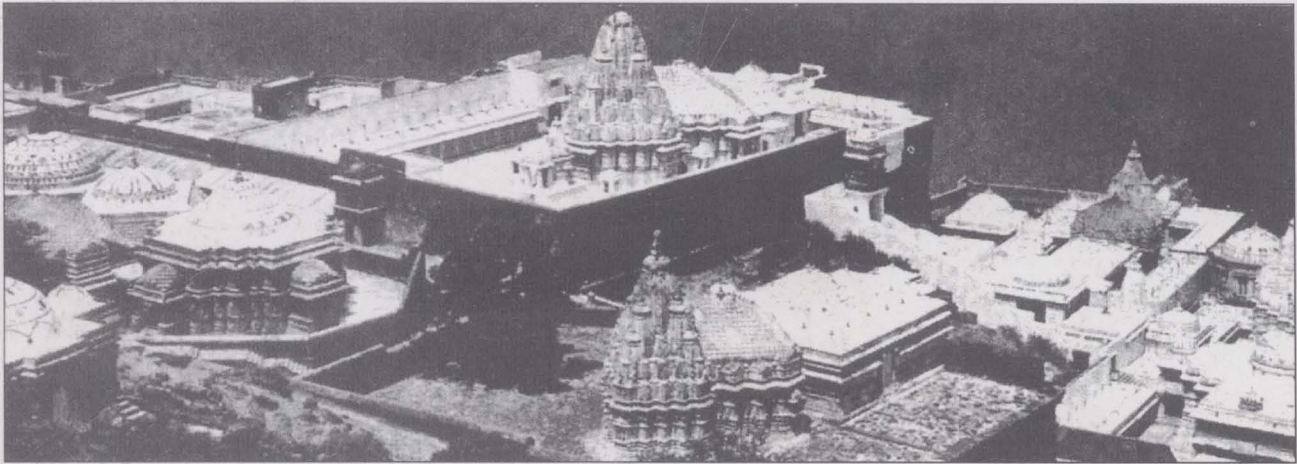
WE ARE AT A MOMENTOUS JUNCTURE. TO INSPIRE AND MOTIVATE OUR NEXT GENERATION WE MUST UNITE THROUGH RESPECTFUL AND INTERTWINED CO-EXISTENCE AND INCLUSIVENESS. WE MUST EMBRACE THE DIVERSITY OF RITUALS AND PRACTICES, SHOW RESPECT FOR THE VIEWS OF OTHERS AND ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF ALL TRADITIONS, WITHOUT IMPOSING ONE'S VALUES ON THE OTHERS. THIS UNIFIED APPROACH, REFLECTING THE TRUE SPIRIT OF ANEKANTWAD, WILL BIND US ALL TOGETHER AND HELP US PRACTICE AND COMMUNICATE BHAGWAN MAHAVIR'S MESSAGE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. OUR NEXT GENERATION WILL BE "JAIN" WITHOUT BEING LABELED BY ANY TRADITION OR SECT.

TODAY, WE ALL PLEDGE TO SUPPORT JAINA IN FULFILLING THIS DREAM. JAI JINENDRA!!!

(NOTE: THIS DECLARATION WAS PRESENTED AT THE TIME OF 2005 JAINA CONVENTION BY ANOP R. VORA, READ BY GURUDEV CHITRABHANUJI AND SIGNED BY SEVERAL RELIGIOUS AND ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERS. IT IS CURRENTLY BEING REFINED BY JAINA TO GET SIGNATURES OF OTHER PROMINENT LEADERS.

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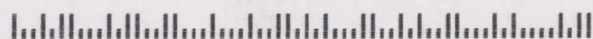
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