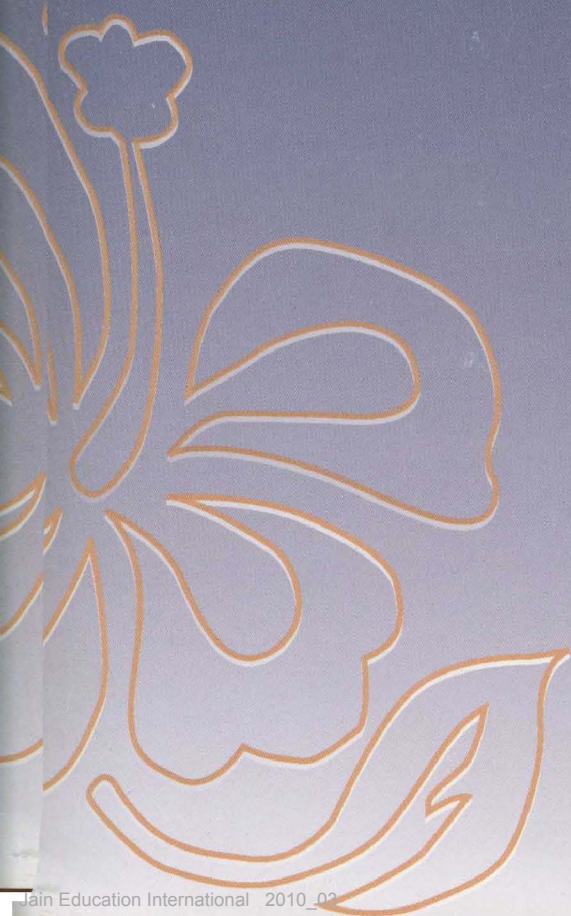




# YJAin?

To See, To Know, To Realize



Sixth Biennial  
Young Jains of America Convention  
Bay Area, California  
July 1-4, 2004

॥ॐ॥

णमो अरिहंताणं,  
णमो सिद्धाणं,  
णमो आयरियाणं,  
णमो उवज्झायाणं,  
णमो लोए सव्वसाहूणं,  
एसो पंच णमोयारो,  
सव्व पाव प्पणासणो,  
मंगलाणं च सव्वेसिं,  
पढमं हवइ मंगलं ॥

---

**Namo Arihantanam:** I bow down to Arihanta,

**Namo Siddhanam:** I bow down to Siddha,

**Namo Ayariyanam:** I bow down to Acharya,

**Namo Uvajjhayanam:** I bow down to Upadhyaya,

**Namo Loe Savva-Sahunam:** I bow down to Sadhu and Sadhvi.

**Eso Panch Namokaro:** These five bowings downs,

**Savva-Pavappanasano:** Destroy all the sins,

**Manglananch Savvesim:** Amongst all that is auspicious,

**Padhamam Havei Mangalam:** This Navkar Mantra is the foremost



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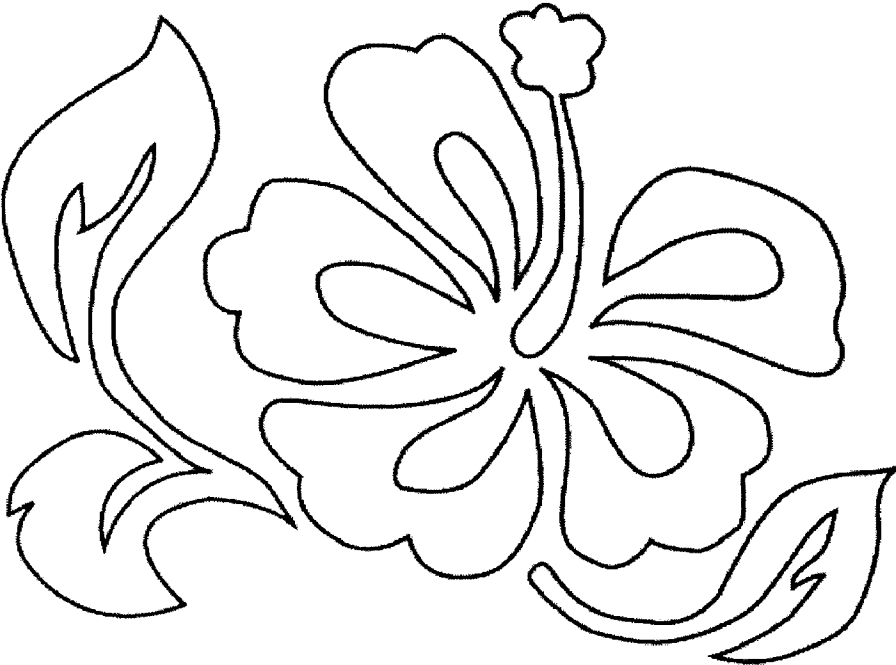
**Jai Jinendra...**

**Young Jains of America & the Bay Area Convention Commitee  
present**

**YJA Convention 2004  
“Y Jain? To See, To Know, To Realize”**

**Santa Clara Westin Hotel, Bay Area, CA  
July 1 - 4, 2004**

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# Table of Contents

<b><u>Item:</u></b>	<b><u>Page No.:</u></b>
Endorsement Letters.....	3
Site - The Westin Santa Clara Hotel.....	13
Schedule of Events .....	14
Description of Main Events.....	15
The Track System.....	18
High School Tracks:	
Ahimsa & The World .....	20
Being Jain In The 21st Century .....	25
Masala, Music, And Madirs: Our Jain Cultural Heritage .....	31
College Track Tracks:	
Jainism Under a Microscope: A Scientific Look.....	37
My So-Called Jain Life: The College Experience .....	43
Anekantvaad: Let's Keep It Real.....	49
Post-college Tracks:	
“To Be Or Not To Be”: Jainism & Ethics.....	55
All Roads Lead East.....	60
Being Jain Tomorrow.....	65
Social Sessions.....	71
Speaker Biographies .....	75
Convention Donor List.....	92
Dedications.....	94
Attendee Contact Information.....	112
Additional Notes.....	124

# Endorsement Letters

## Thoughts From Our Supporters

### Community Involvement

YJA Convention 2004 would not have been made possible without the continued support of many individuals within our extended community. Ranging from an eight-year old child donating part of their allowance, to an endorsement from the House of Representatives, this broad brush of support has helped guide this convention to become a success.

Consistent with Jain principles and values, YJA Convention 2004 seeks to merge the goals you will see expressed in the following pages. The reigning theme throughout will express the desire for youth to take away practical applications of Jainism and maintain an interest in learning more about the religion to help preserve its tenets.

In accordance with the statements made from the various supporters, it is impressive to see a showing of almost a thousand youth from around the world, join together for a 4-day convention to explore Jainism. The ball is now in our court, to take the support of our endorsers, the advice of our parents, the inspiration within us, and the opportunity ahead, to influence the path we choose in the future as well as our present lives.



# Young Jains of America

Federation of Jain Associations in North America  
A Non-Profit Tax Exempt Religious Organization. IRS Code Section 501 (c)(3) EI #54-1280028

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Jai Jinendra,

On behalf of Young Jains of America (YJA), we are elated to present our 6th biennial convention to be held in Santa Clara, California. This momentous event will take place from July 1st to July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2004. With the attendance of nearly one thousand devoted young Jains from across North America and around the world, this auspicious weekend promises to be an extraordinary experience.

For the past decade, YJA has championed the cause of bringing Jainism to the youth of North America. We have blazed a trail that has positively influenced countless young people by being a driving force in bringing the teachings of Jainism to them in unique presentational styles. This year, the focus of the convention's structure will be centered on the choices of the youth. The innovative track system allows for participants to choose classes based on a selected theme. Each student will be awarded the independence to decide upon the seminars that interest him or her. This selectivity is the driving force behind our theme, *YJain? To See, To Know, To Realize*. We have endeavored to achieve interactive and motivating sessions, inspirational topics, and kindle the fire of spirituality within each young Jain who attends.

YJA Convention 2004 has certainly been the paramount focus of this term; nevertheless, we have also been proactive in bringing quality events to the local communities in each of our regions. We successfully held five regional conferences for the second consecutive year. Additionally, we constructed stronger ties with Habitat for Humanity as we teamed up with this benevolent organization to help the less fortunate by putting the teachings of Lord Mahavir in the form of 'Ahimsa in Action.' We've organized religious experiences spotlighting Jain rituals and prayers, such as pujas and lectures on the local level as well.

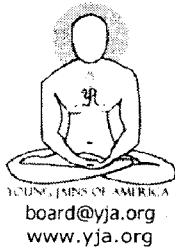
We have given our website a remarkable facelift by making the template more user friendly and adding new, interactive and exciting features. [www.yja.org](http://www.yja.org) is now a comprehensive website for young people to explore, and help them to grow and learn.

This convention as well as all of our accomplishments could not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our executive board and the Bay Area Convention Committee. We would also like to extend our genuine appreciation each donor for their generous contributions and continuing support. Finally, we appreciate the diligent efforts of all of the volunteers, youth, and parents who have spent countless hours helping to put together this grand convention. We have combined to bring you the best convention to date and introduce ideas and features that will become staples in conventions to come.

Ultimately, we depend on you, the youth of North America, to guide our goals. Therefore, we need more enterprising youth to step forward and lead the charge. To learn more about YJA and all of our activities, please visit our website at [www.yja.org](http://www.yja.org). We urge you become proactively involved and to take the initiative in being a leader in your community. Together, we can truly bring Jainism today, to the leaders of tomorrow.

Very truly yours,

Arpan Shah and Chirag K. Shah  
Co-Chairs, 2003-2004  
Young Jains of America



# Young Jains of America

## Convention 2004, Bay Area

*Establishing a network to share Jain heritage and religion through youth*

Federation of Jain Associations in North America  
A Non-Profit Tax Exempt Religious Organization. IRS Code Section 501 (c)(3) EI #54-1280028



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Jai Jinendra:

On behalf of the Bay Area Convention Committee, we would like to sincerely welcome you to YJA Convention 2004! Not only are we excited to welcome you to our hometown, we are also looking forward to meeting you all over the course of this four-day convention. From Australia to San Jose, a very diverse group of people will be flooding the floors of the Westin Santa Clara Hotel on July 1<sup>st</sup> (a special welcome to our lone attendee from Mississippi!).

Our vision for this convention has been the driving force behind the planning process. First and foremost, we hope that each attendee has a positive and memorable experience at this convention. Whether it is learning bhangra at the morning activities, participating in a meaningful discussion on the significance of Jain art, or making a new best friend from across the country – this convention will provide a unique takeaway for each attendee.

Along with these wonderful memories, participants have the chance to gain immense knowledge of Jainism. Rather than focusing only on the facts regarding the religion, this convention aims to teach the practical applications of Jain principles. Through discussion, role-playing, lecture, and interactive sessions, participants will learn how to approach situations they face in the modern world. When questioned why they adhere to religious principles such as Ahimsa, they will not only be able to explain the definition of Ahimsa, but they will also be able to integrate it in their actions.

This convention steps beyond the boundary of previous conventions by the addition of a themed track system. For the first time, participants will be attending age-specific sessions linked to a track theme they have selected. Rather than attending sessions stemming from a wide variety of topics, classes will be tailored to focus on a particular track theme. The end result is that attendees will have an easier time retaining the information they have learned.

With all of this newly gained knowledge, participants will be in dire need of rest and relaxation. As with any vacation away from home, we want you to all to take the time to enjoy the fun activities we have in store. At recreation hour, you will be able to relax and play some ball – or even lead a team in tug of war. At our first-ever Hawaiian Luau, you can sit back with a "mocktail" or dance the night away. Whatever you choose to do, the convention has something for everyone.

As we take a moment to reflect back on the past 15 months of planning, hard work, and preparation that has gone into this convention – we can't help but recognize the efforts of the minds behind this convention. Through lengthy meetings, a few shouting matches, and very lengthy phone bills, this committee has formed a close bond that will not be forgotten. In addition to the Bay Area Convention Committee, we would also like to thank the Jain Center of Northern California, our esteemed advisory board, and the numerous volunteers that helped to make this event possible. With the tremendous support of our entire community, we proudly present "YJAin? To See, To Know, To Realize."

Sincerely,

Samir Ajmera & Rina Shah  
BACC Co-Chairs  
YJA Convention 2004  
www.yja.org/convention



NON-VIOLENCE  
परस्परपद्मे अहिंसा

# JAINA

## Federation of Jain Associations in North America

Founded 1981

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July 4, 2004

Dear Friends:

Warm Greetings!

I am honored to extend my best wishes to every one gathered for the 2004 YJA Convention in the Bay Area, California. It is indeed very gratifying to note that the YJA conventions have become very popular among the youth in the Jain community residing in North America. Many years of hard work on the part of the current YJA leaders and their predecessors seems to have paid off handsomely.

I have watched the growth of YJA over the years and am very impressed with your achievements. We at JAINA are all very proud of what you have achieved.

Congratulations on your accomplishments and wishing you continued success in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Anop R. Vora  
JAINA President





# JAIN CENTER OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, INC.

722 South Main Street, Milpitas, CA 95035

(408) 262-6242 ♦ <http://www.jcnc.org>

*A California Non-Profit Religious Corporation ♦ Federal Tax ID 94-277-8859*

Summer 2004

## The YJA Board and Delegates to the 2004 YJA Biennial Convention

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Jain Center of Northern California, I want to extend a very warm welcome to all of you to the YJA Convention at the Santa Clara Westin during this July 4, 2004 holiday period. As your hosts for this Convention, we at JCNC and the Bay Area Convention Committee (BACC) of YJA want to ensure that you attend a very memorable and unique Convention with creativity and quality demonstrated in all aspects of our programming, arrangements, activities combined with an overall approach of warmth and cordiality demonstrated by all.

We realize that you have taken great pains to come to this event from all parts of the United States and many countries around the globe and therefore it is very important that your experience here for the three days is very enriching in terms of its learning process and rewarding in terms of the long lasting relationships and friendships you cultivate here.

The BACC team and their advisers have worked very hard for over a year to put together this event that we hope offers everything I have mentioned above and more. Your active participation as well as feedback for any improvements that we need to make immediately or for future events is very important part of this process and I encourage each and every one of you to do that without any hesitation.

Last but not the least is the realization by all that the delegates to this Convention and the rest of the Jain youth in North America and elsewhere are going to be the future leaders for carrying on the rich traditions and the spiritual depth of Jainism for the next generation. If this Convention helps in any way in creating that leadership, it will have achieved its purpose.

Once again, my hearty welcome to all of you and hope that you enjoy your stay here in the beautiful San Francisco Bay Area.

Jain Jinendra,

Bipin A. Shah

President

Jain Center of Northern California



*A non-profit educational organization*  
Founded by Poojya Gurudev Shree Chitrabhanuji

401 EAST 86TH STREET #20A • NEW YORK, NY • 10028 • 212 534-6090

July 1, 2004

Dear Young Jains ~~

Here you have come and have some spatial time to See, Know and Realize yourself as an individual and your role in the world. See what good merits you have earned and now what you can do with them, and Know yourself – who you are so you Realize your worth.

You are born as a human being, and born in a family that is vegetarian. They believe in Ahinsa Dharma, and are sincerely trying to live according to their belief. They will not stand any killing, not even a fish or a fly. You have this blessed heritage of Ahinsa and peace and respect for life. Besides these, you have five healthy senses, good education, freedom for choices, growth and progress. On top of this you have the blessings of Bhagwan Mahavir and Ahinsa Dharma.

Now look around you how humanity is watching helplessly war and violence between man and man, hate and harassment to the helpless, suffering of innocent children, torture to hopeless helpless citizens of developing countries of the third world.

Greedy warmongers find out ways to wage bloody wars for post, position and possessions. They can cook thousands of lies through the press, propaganda, power point, publicity. They can camouflage their hidden and heinous motives by misusing men's best to do men's worst. And where is hope? Can the practice of Ahinsa be a wing of hope?

You know Young Jains always follow the inner voice of Dharma. Dharma means true nature of Self – Atma. Dharma is an inherent, noble quality of Self.

Dharma is manifested in three ways: Right Vision, Right Knowledge, and Right Conduct.

Darshan – Right Vision: Envisioning one's indestructible immortal Self, housing in a mortal body.

Gnana – Right Knowledge: The conscious awareness of the sacredness of one's Self and of others.

Charitra – Right Conduct: Living peacefully with awareness of Ahinsa and Amity in the world.

So, Young Jains are on a journey to explore the qualities of Self in the light of awareness and live a life of compassion and peaceful co-existence where they go. Young Jains become self-realized when they practice Dharma through Ahinsa and sacredness of life. Ahinsa is observed in its spirit of practice in these six steps:

A – Awareness of sacred life within and without.

H – Harmlessness: Be strong enough not to harm oneself and others with thoughts, words, actions and motives.

I – Integration of body, mind and soul that creates the symphonic music of practice, perception and preaching.

N – Nobility of Atma is to Be one's nature: to See one's quality, to Free from enslaving demands of sensuality and harming habits.

S – Serve life with kindness and compassion.

A – Advancement in daily life with Amity and Appreciation.

In this way Young Jains become a loving individual to oneself and a good person to the family, a civilized citizen to the country and a blessed friend to all life who come in touch with him or her.

Young Jains now realize the meaning and purpose of the opportunity of giving from oneself and receiving from the universe. This is the spirit of Parasparopagraho jivanam, supported by mutual understanding and service to one another.

I am sure you Young Jains at this Sixth Biennial Convention, being with right-minded people, will share the spirit of Jain Dharma to enrich your lives and the world with your presence.

Love and Blessings,

*Chitrabhanu*



GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

July 1, 2004

*Young Jains of America*

I am pleased to extend warm greetings to all those gathered for your Sixth Biennial Convention.

For more than ten years, your organization has worked to raise awareness about Jainism, and I applaud your efforts to encourage charitable community activities and provide spiritual support.

Enjoy your stay in the Bay Area, and please accept my best wishes for every future success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Arnold Schwarzenegger".

Arnold Schwarzenegger

STATE CAPITOL • SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814 • (916) 445-2841





HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

NANCY PELOSI  
8TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

DEMOCRATIC LEADER

April 28, 2004


Young Jains of America  
1476 Petal Way  
San Jose, California 95129

Congratulations to the Young Jains of America on your sixth bi-ennial convention. Your efforts to increase awareness of Jain philosophy helps promote tolerance, peace, and compassion among all peoples.

It is my privilege to represent San Francisco's world-renowned diversity. And I am proud to be the Leader of a group as diverse as the Democrats in Congress. I look forward to working with you to help all people walk a path of peace together.

Please accept my best wishes for a successful convention, and keep me updated on your efforts. Thank you again for all your hard work.

Best regards,

  
NANCY PELOSI  
Democratic Leader

## SANTA CLARA

March 26, 2004

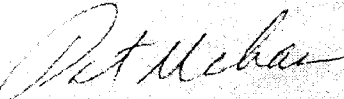
Young Jains of America  
c/o Vinay S. Shah  
19 Raker Road  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

As Mayor of Santa Clara, it gives me great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to you to our wonderful city for the Sixth Biennial YJA Convention. We are proud that you have selected the City of Santa Clara as the site for conference. I know you will enjoy being surrounded by the warmth and hospitality of the Mission City.

While here in Santa Clara, I hope you will have some time to visit some of the cultural and social areas of Santa Clara, such as the world famous Mission Santa Clara, the Triton Museum of Art, and the very popular Paramount's Great America Theme Park.

I wish you great success with your conference and hope you find the time to enjoy the hospitality of our city and it's many attractions.

Sincerely,



Patricia Mahan  
Mayor

**Mayor**

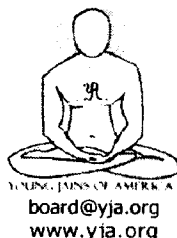
Patricia M. Mahan

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# Young Jains of America

## Convention 2004, Bay Area

*Establishing a network to share Jain heritage and religion through youth*

Federation of Jain Associations in North America  
A Non-Profit Tax Exempt Religious Organization, IRS Code Section 501 (c)(3) EI #54-1280028



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Jai Jinendra!

Welcome to the San Francisco Bay Area and the Sixth Biennial Young Jains of America Convention! It is a great pleasure to have you here. We hope to provide you with an educational forum that will enable the you to experience the opportunity of exchanging ideas and beliefs with others about Jain culture and its application with your daily lives. Keeping this goal in mind, we created the our theme, "Y JAin? To See, To Know, To Realize."

The souvenir book for YJA Convention 2004, was created to help the attendees take something away from the convention. It is a reference guide you can use to learn more about Jain philosophy and beliefs in common occurrences. Inside, you will find biographies of speakers, session information, note pages, and attendee contact information. It lets you take home a part of the convention.

We would like to thank all of the volunteers from Young Jains of America and the Bay Area Convention Committee for all their determined work and relentless nature, which made this book extraordinary. Also, the support of JAINA and JCNC has been tremendous throughout the process. They made themselves available with valuable advice whenever was needed. We would also like to extend our gratitude to our parents. They have been there every step of the way for us and always running behind us making sure we ate on time and provided us with encouragement and assistance whenever we asked. Thank you to all!

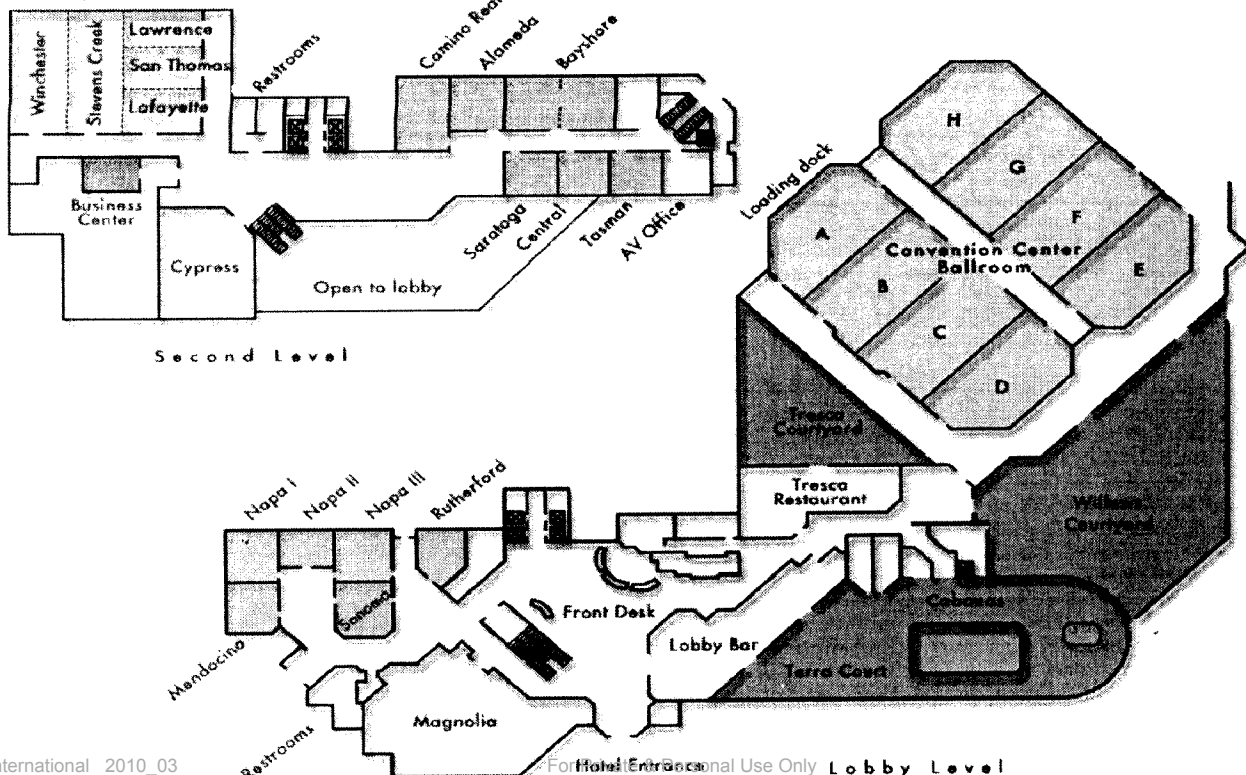
Sincerely,

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Purvi Shah (YJA, Mid-Atlantic Regional Coordinator)  
Deepen Shah (YJA, Director of Information Technology)  
Chirag Shah (YJA, West Regional Coordinator)

# The Westin Santa Clara



Santa Clara Ballroom



# Schedule of Events

## Thursday, July 1, 2004

11:00AM - 8:00PM	Onsite Registration
11:00AM - 8:00PM	Airport Shuttles to Hotel
12:00PM - 6:00PM	Mela
6:00PM - 7:45PM	Dinner
8:15PM - 9:30PM	Opening Ceremony
9:30PM - 10:30PM	Ice Breakers
9:30PM - 12:00AM	Talent Show / Cultural Show / Mela

## Friday, July 2, 2004

6:30AM - 7:30AM	Yoga/Aerobics/Meditation
7:15AM - 8:45AM	Breakfast
9:00AM - 10:00AM	Session 1
10:10AM - 11:30AM	Session 2
11:30AM - 1:00PM	Lunch
1:00PM - 2:00PM	Session 3
2:10PM - 3:15PM	Session 4
3:15PM - 3:30PM	Break / Snacks
3:40PM - 5:00PM	Session 5
5:00PM - 6:30PM	Recreation Hour
6:30PM - 8:00PM	Dinner
8:30PM - 12:00AM	Garba/Raas/Bhangra

## Saturday, July 3, 2004

6:30AM - 7:30AM	Yoga/Aerobics/Meditation
7:15AM - 8:45AM	Breakfast
9:00AM - 10:00AM	Session 1
10:10AM - 11:30AM	Session 2
11:30AM - 1:00PM	Lunch
1:00PM - 2:00PM	Session 3
2:10PM - 3:15PM	Session 4
3:15PM - 3:30PM	Break / Snacks
3:40PM - 5:00PM	Session 5
5:00PM - 6:30PM	Recreation Hour
6:30PM - 8:00PM	Dinner
8:30PM - 12:00AM	Hawaiian Luau

## Sunday, July 4, 2004

8:30AM - 9:30AM	Yoga/Aerobics/Meditation
10:00AM - 12:00PM	Brunch
11:00AM - 12:00PM	Closing Ceremony
12:00PM - 3:00PM	Trip to Temple
8:00AM - 4:00PM	Shuttles to Airport

# Main Events

## Opening Ceremony

Night One

As the official commencement to YJA Convention 2004, all attendees will gather in the Grand Ballroom to begin the festivities. The Navkar Mantra will be poignantly recited with various stavans to follow. The Co-chairs from YJA Executive Board will welcome everyone to the Sixth Biennial Convention and speak of YJA's mission, history and goals for the convention, as well as for future endeavors. Similarly, the Bay Area Committee Co-Chairs will address the audience on behalf of the Jain Sangh of Northern California. Highlighting the opening ceremony will be the keynote speaker, Dr. Dipak C. Jain, the Dean of the Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University. Dr. Jain is widely recognized as a prolific scholar as well as a respected researcher and teacher. Additionally, the convention will be graced with blessings from many religious leaders. The opening ceremony will embrace young people from around the world and will set the stage for what promises to be an enlivening weekend.

## Mela / Cultural Show

Night One

The opening day mela will be an excellent opportunity to meet people from around the country and beyond. The ongoing mela will be set in a carnival-like atmosphere where attendees will be able to walk through the numerous booths involving crafts, mehndi, fortune telling, interactive games and a host of other activities that incorporate diverse aspects of Jain culture. The overarching theme of the mela will be East vs. West with activities stemming from Indian/Asian culture and Western/American culture. The loose structure of this event will allow everyone to get to know others while learning new aspects of Jainism, in a laid-back atmosphere.

The cultural show will allow youth participants to showcase their talents in a variety of different arts, such as dancing, singing, speaking, etc. Attendees will have the pleasure of seeing their peers dance to songs such as, "Mahive," "Mein Hoon Na," and "Babuji Zhara Dheere Chalo." Continuing the theme of East vs. West, this show will demonstrate the wide variety of both Indian and American culture.

# Garba-Raas/Bhangra

## Night Two

The introduction of this event dates back to YJA Convention 1996 in San Francisco, California; it has become one of the favorite nighttime activities of the convention, and has been held at every YJA Convention since that time. With colorful decorations and a live band to hype up the crowd, the garba-raas will attract both dancers and non-dancers alike. Garba-Raas lessons will be provided for those attendees wanting to learn this traditional style of dance. Perhaps the most exciting aspect of the garba-raas will be the opportunity to see friends dressed in colorful, authentic Indian clothes, dancing to traditional music.

Attendees will also be able to enjoy the diversity of our Indian heritage, by dancing to the beat of the dhol during the Bhangra portion of the night. The lively rhythm of this music will pump up the crowd to dance the night away. As Bhangra music has become popularized in both Western and Eastern pop-culture, this style of dance has become a youth favorite. Attendees should be ready to travel back to Punjab while demonstrating their skills on the dance floor.

# Hawaiian Luau

## Night Three

In year's past, the semi-formal dance has been the evening activity that has brought all participants together for a final time. This year marks the first-ever Hawaiian Luau, that will also be a relaxing event for attendees to hang out with their new-found friends. Similar to the other nighttime events, the luau will still involve the traditional dinner and dancing. After many engaging seminars and sleepless nights, the luau will be a great way for everyone to unwind and spend a brilliant last evening together. To add a Californian flavor to the event, the luau will have a traditional tropical luau theme. Attendees will be dressed in hawaiian-themed attire and will show-off their moves on the dance floor. Each attendee will be given a hawaiian lei to complement their hawaiian shirts, skirts, and dresses. Various activities such as a limbo contest and hula dancing will create a very laid-back atmosphere for all of the attendees to come together and join in the fun.



# Closing Ceremony

Day Four

YJA Convention 2004 will end with a grand finale in the form of a closing ceremony on Sunday, July 4th. In the final culminating event of the convention, attendees will hear inspirational comments that will tie in all of the knowledge and experiences they have undergone over the course of the 4-day convention. Participants will be encouraged to reflect on their time at the convention and analyze what new things they have learned. Through the morning activities, class sessions, recreation hour, nighttime activities, etc., attendees will have a wide scope of experiences fresh on their plate. Because these experiences will shape their future actions, the closing ceremony aims to motivate attendees to incorporate new realizations into their daily life. The closing ceremony will specifically include closing comments by a keynote speaker, and a spectacular slideshow recapping the events of the convention. Participants will all have a moment to visually see some of the lasting memories made at the convention, which will hopefully create an imprint in their minds of the fun they had at YJA Convention 2004.

# The Track System

The YJA Convention 2004 theme is: “Y Jain? To See, To Know, To Realize.” Why should youth today choose to use Jainism as a way of life from numerous other religions, if religion is an answer at all? The Jain youth often question the Jain aspect of living. If they do not, they blindly accept Jainism without fully understanding the meaning behind the beliefs and stories. Thus, the convention aims to delineate a realistic progression from the introduction of philosophical ideas to their real-life applications:

- To See:** This is what occurs in daily life, growing up in a western world with an eastern background. The Indian culture does not say the same thing about events and experiences as other cultures do.
- To Know:** Jainism’s point of view for experiences in daily life. And why Jainism believes this...what is the reason for to do certain things, and not take part in certain actions? What do Jain principles say about everything?
- To Realize:** Tying in “To See” and “To Know.” What can be done the Jainism way, about common events in the western lifestyle? There are certain methods to deal with common occurrences according to Jainism, and this is how it should be done.

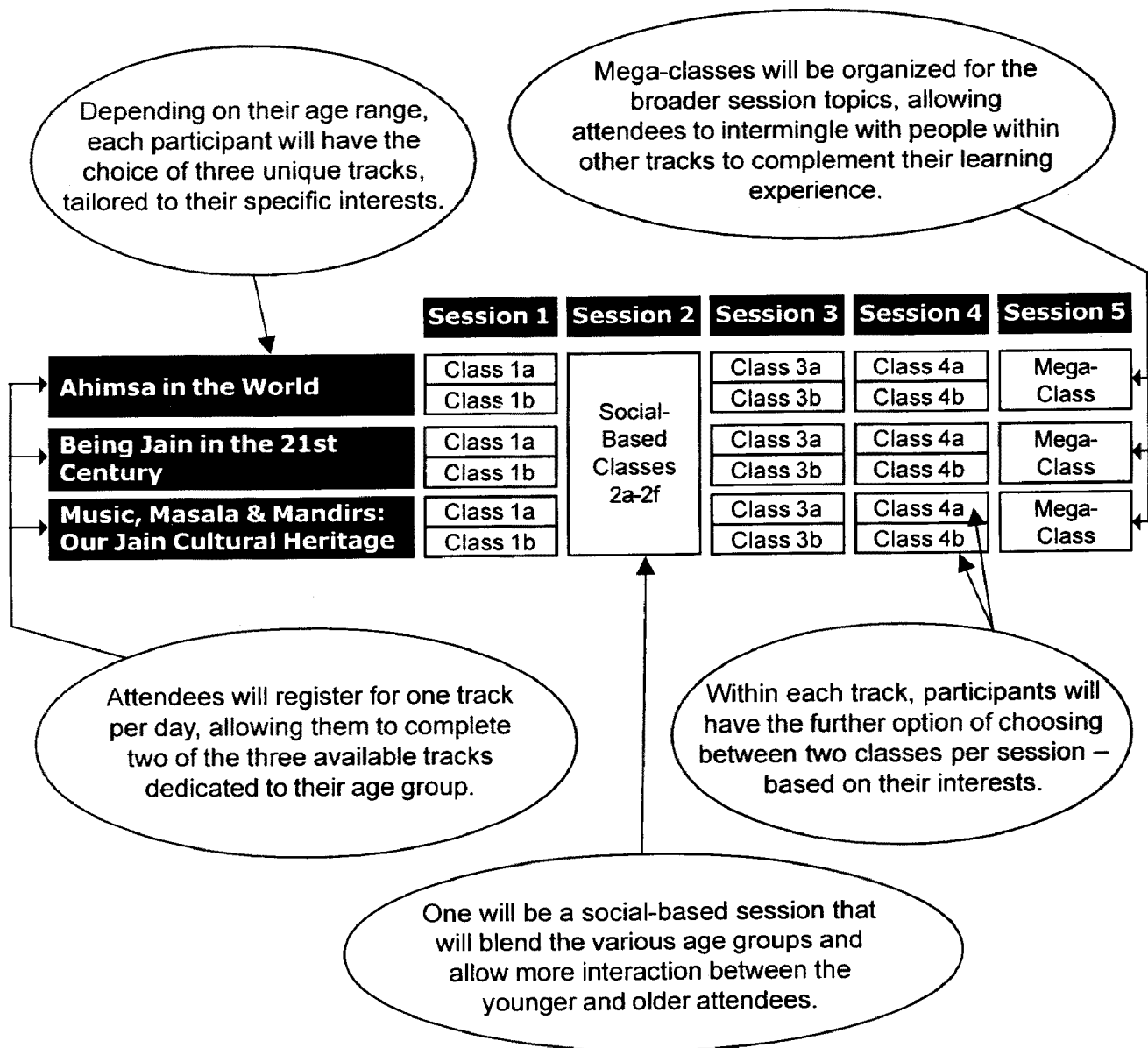
YJA Convention 2004 will introduce this newly created track system. In years past, attendees have not easily remembered details regarding the material taught at the convention. In order to ensure that attendees have an easier time retaining this information, a theme-based track system has been created. All sessions within a given track focus on a certain theme relating to Jainism.

There are nine tracks in total, separated by age group: high school, college, and post-college. There are three different themed tracks (each focusing on a different topic) within each age group. Within each track, each attendee has a choice of two classes per session. All classes, sessions, and speakers relate back to the track theme as well as the overall convention theme.

Convention attendees select two of the three tracks for their age group and attend five sessions per track for a total of ten classes during the convention. The session formats vary, including workshops, lecture, and discussion. Four of the five sessions relate to the track theme that the attendee selected for that day. The remaining session will be a social based session where the individual will have the opportunity to interact with all age groups, rather than just the age group within their designated track.

Specially programmed sessions for the post-college age group will be scheduled on Friday and Saturday as well, in the form of J2J. These sessions will include opportunities to network with other post-college attendees as well as a trip to the world-famous Asian Art Museum in San Francisco. J2J participants will have the opportunity to take a knowledgeable tour on comparative religions and view the specially dedicated exhibit to Jain religion at the museum.

Attendees will partake in a new theme-focused track system that will create a captivating and memorable educational experience for each individual. Participants will retain a stronger understanding of the practical applications of the religion – as they come to “see, know, and realize,” the principles of Jainism.



Throughout the class offerings, participants will encounter varying class formats, class sizes, and riveting speakers. All of the sessions offered will relate back to the track theme, thus allowing attendees to focus on a particular aspect of Jainism that stimulates him/her the most.

# Ahimsa & The World

## High School Track #1

Do you like to gossip? Are you critical of yourself and your appearance? How often do you get frustrated with your parents? In one way or another, these examples violate the principle of ahimsa, non-violence. It is often assumed that by avoiding harmful and violent actions, we are adhering to non-violent principles. Jains sometimes believe that by eliminating meat from their diet, not killing bugs, and avoiding walking on grass – they are truly following the religion. It is important to understand, however that thoughts can also be a form of Himsa.

From Buddhism to war, from vegetarianism to anger management, from karma to music, Ahimsa is a value that transcends into many topics of life. As you live your everyday life, you encounter the concept of Ahimsa in many situations that you may not stop to contemplate. Use this opportunity to scrutinize your lifestyle and the world that surrounds you. With the help of your peers and a meaningful discussion, you will likely come to realize that Ahimsa is the way of life.

## Defining Ahimsa in Your Life

*Speaker: Chintan Shah and Neha Shah*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 9:00am & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 9:00am - Session 1

One of the five basic principles of Jainism most widely observed by practicing Jains, is Ahimsa. But what really qualifies as Ahimsa? Have you ever gossiped about your friends? Remember the last time you were upset at a teacher for giving you a bad grade? Well, the above two examples are actually forms of violence. Ahimsa, non-violence, aims to avoid not only physical and verbal, but mental actions as well. This session will discuss the fundamentals of Ahimsa and take a look at various situations that apply to your everyday life.

Notes:

## An Insight to Modern Jainism

*Speaker: Boston Youth Group*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 9:00am & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 9:00am - Session 1

Learn about the principles of Jainism in a different and fun way-through skits! In the first skit, participants will look into the Kal Chakra, showing the qualities of each ARA and how each differs from the preceding ARA. Each scene displays the key aspects from the specific ARA (time period-defined by Jainism). In the second skit, it takes the original sitcom "Saved By the Bell", and applies American teenage culture to Jain teenage lives. The skit focuses on the 5 Jain vows of householders, namely Brahmacharya, Aparigraha, Truth, Non-violence and Non-stealing. The characters: Zack, Kelly, Slater, Screech, Jessie, and Lisa give an alternative viewpoint of life through Jainism.

Notes:



## A Session with Ocean Robbins

*Speaker: Ocean Robbins*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 10:15am - Session 2

Learn about how you can pave a path of saying 'yes' to a world of infinite possibilities, as did Ocean Robbins, grandson of the founder of Baskin Robbins. Ocean will share his motivating and inspirational personal journey to his current status as an influential activist and founder of "Youth For Environmental Sanity (YES!)." In this session, you will have the opportunity to learn how to hold on to your ideals and live out your dreams. You will be inspired to use your Jain ideals to take action, combine it with wisdom, insight, and knowledge – to help create a transformation in the world.

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## Progressive Jainism - A Modern Interpretation of Jainism

*Speaker: Sadhvi Shilapiji*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 1:00pm & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 1:00pm - Session 3

Take a look at Jainism as a philosophy and not a religion. Can rituals, mantras and prayers only be done in the temple and no other place? How can we realistically include Jainism in our everyday lives? In today's world, it's necessary to reconcile your beliefs with your modern lifestyle to be true to yourself and the environment. During this session, learn how to use the ideals of Jainism—ahimsa, compassion, ethics, and morals—without the label of religion.

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## Fashion Faux-Pas

*Speaker: Rina Shah*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 1:00pm & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 1:00pm - Session 3

Suede jackets, leather belts and a sheepskin rug – these are all material items that are pretty sweet – but are they really Jain? Is being fashionable more important than following your Jain principles? What about your shampoo, your soap or your hair products? Do you ever check to see if these products are tested on animals? This informational seminar will explore a wide-variety of day-to-day items and brands that we can use without harming animals and the environment.

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## Mind Your Manners

*Speaker: Dallas Youth Group*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 2:15pm & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 2:15pm - Session 4

Have you ever felt awkward towards Jain monks? Have you ever questioned their practices or felt like you've never had the chance to know them really well? Do you question other methods or practices in the Jain religion related to the life of a Jain ascetic? Hopefully, the Dallas Youth Group from down south can show you what it is all really about. Bring your questions, qualms, and perks about Jain monks, saman/samanijs, and other facets of the religion to which you've always felt a bit uncomfortable about to a hard-hitting, part discussion based session!

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## Forgiveness: The Power Of Humility

*Speaker: Dr. Tara Sethia*

Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 3:45pm - Session 5

Frictions and disagreements frequently arise in all relationships-between family members, friends, peers, colleagues and business associates. Often, small friction ends up turning love into hate, goodwill into ill will, and friendship into enmity. Is there a way out of conflict and friction other than breaking up relationships or seeking revenge? Is there a way to move past the drama and be truly content all the time? The Jain tradition of kshama may just have the answer to these questions, and you can attend this session to find out what they are!

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## Veganism in a Nutshell

*Speaker: Sangeeta Kumar*

Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 3:45pm - Session 5

This lively presentation lays out the ethical argument for veganism in a compelling and practical manner. With a powerful analysis of animal cruelty, human misery, environmental degradation, and health problems associated with animal product production and consumption, you will leave this presentation understanding why veganism is the ethical diet for our times. Come with questions, doubts and arguments, as you will leave changed forever!

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# Being Jain In The 21st Century

## High School Track #2

What do you do when all of your friends eat meat and you don't? In science class you have dissect an animal, how do you feel? Your friends are buying the hottest trend in leather shoes and silk dresses, do you? The million dollar question: how do you use what you know about Jainism - in friendships, in school and in your everyday life?

Being Jain is not just about the past and how you were raised - but how you will live now using what you know. We are all aware that Jainism is well-rooted in history, with several values that transcend time. How can we adjust or interpret these timeless values to live a "Jain" life in the modern world? Through this track, you are guaranteed to take away some useful aspects of the religion that will help guide you through the difficulty of blending "Old World" thought with "New World" experience.

## ABCJ - American Born Confused Jain??

*Speaker: Amar Salgia & Gabriel Figueroa*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 9:00am & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 9:00am - Session 1

"Yo', I've never heard of Jainism... Can you tell me about it? Want a better understanding of the fundamental principles of Jainism? Beyond learning one or two key takeaways regarding the religion, this session will answer all of your basic questions about Jainism. From vegetarianism to the karma theory – you will build a strong foundation of your Jain knowledge, discover the secrets of ahimsa, and learn to speak intelligently about Jainism -whether giving a quick definition or a more thorough explanation- during this session.

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## Welcome to Generation Fix

*Speaker: Nipun Mehta*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 9:00am & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 9:00am - Session 1

It is one thing to do community service to help boost your resume. It's quite another to change the world. When a seventh grader was asked to change the world, he responded with the idea of "Pay it Forward". When Gregory Smith graduated from college at 9, he started a project to help a warring tribe in Africa and was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. When Ocean Robbins, grandson of the founder of Baskin Robbins, obtained his license at age 16, he travelled across the country and spoke to 1500 school assemblies about saving the environment. What does it mean to serve as youth, in our existing communities?

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## A Session with Ocean Robbins

*Speaker: Ocean Robbins*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 10:15am - Session 2

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## Should I Believe: Why and How?

*Speaker: Pallavi Gala*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 1:00pm & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 1:00pm - Session 3

Pooja. Samayik. Swadhyay. The nine reals. Stories. Lessons. The Jain code of conduct. Is all of this for real? Should I believe? What should I do here and now? To no one is this dilemma more mind boggling than the young Jains growing up in the US, trying to balance the two cultures. These questions arise and they need to be answered. Parents have expectations but not necessarily the answers to all these questions. This presentation will attempt to assist participants in cultivating a thought process that will help them to clarify their thinking. Participants are highly encouraged to discuss any unresolved issues or questions they may have.

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## Playing the Field-A Jain View of Dating

*Speaker: TBA*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 1:00pm & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 1:00pm - Session 3

Can we practice Jainism and actively date people? In some aspects, the religion says no to dating and relationships, because we should aim to renounce worldly attachments; yet in another sense, our culture pushes marriage. How can we resolve these opposing factors? By using Jain principles such as the karma theory and theory of detachment, you will learn how to achieve a middle ground between your religious beliefs and the cultural environment.

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## Parent Management 101

*Speaker: Neera Jhaveri, Ronak Jhaveri, Payal Vasa, and Ankit Vasa*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 2:15pm & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 2:15pm - Session 4

Every day, we interact with our parents and their differing views on what they believe is right or wrong. Every day, we disagree about what they think is good for us. The result: yelling, lying, anger, frustration. Jainism teaches us to minimize these reactions, but how else can we communicate our thoughts? How do we find a middle ground, a solution for everyone to agree on? Come discuss your thoughts on how to apply your Jain beliefs when dealing with your parents.

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## Strategizing in the Game Called Life

*Speaker: Ronak Shah*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 2:15pm & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 2:15pm - Session 4

High school can often be a difficult place-dealing with cliques, snobs, and bullies can create difficulty in adhering to Jain morals. Girls and boys are so caught up in gossiping about Priya's new crush, and Sameer's ex-girlfriend, that they may lose sight of their goals, and values. Other times people will sacrifice their beliefs and start smoking, drinking or having sex, just so they can fit in and look cool. Learn strategies to overcome these scenarios, to gain confidence and faith in yourself, and to develop attitudes that encompass your beliefs.

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## Forgiveness: The Power Of Humility

*Speaker: Dr. Tara Sethia*

Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 3:45pm - Session 5

Frictions and disagreements frequently arise in all relationships-between family members, friends, peers, colleagues and business associates. Often, small friction ends up turning love into hate, goodwill into ill will, and friendship into enmity. Is there a way out of conflict and friction other than breaking up relationships or seeking revenge? Is there a way to move past the drama and be truly content all the time? The Jain tradition of kshama may just have the answer to these questions, and you can attend this session to find out what they are!

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## Veganism in a Nutshell

*Speaker: Sangeeta Kumar*

Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 3:45pm - Session 5

This lively presentation lays out the ethical argument for veganism in a compelling and practical manner. With a powerful analysis of animal cruelty, human misery, environmental degradation, and health problems associated with animal product production and consumption, you will leave this presentation understanding why veganism is the ethical diet for our times. Come with questions, doubts and arguments, as you will leave changed forever!

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# **Masala, Music and Mandirs: Our Jain Cultural Heritage**

## **High School Track #3**

Have you ever wanted to play the tabla or learn how to make tasty Jain food? Do you understand the significance of Jain art and history, or appreciate the intricacies of the temples around the world? Did you even know there was such a thing as Jain art? Our generation has always had a strong interest in art and culture, as it transcends beyond religious boundaries and links various viewpoints.

Indian culture is rich and deeply rooted into the theory and practice of Jain religion. This track will help you identify Jainism's heritage within the context of the diversity we live amongst. At a time when Indian culture is more popular than ever, this track will delve into all aspects of Jain culture – food, art, music, etc. Explore a diverse presentation of new and different sessions, discussions and workshops devoted to embracing your heritage.

## Arts, Stories, and Festivals: A Journey of Discovery

*Speaker: Pallavi Gala*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 9:00am & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 9:00am - Session 1

Is Jain art really just all about a bunch of old temples? Are the stories we are told real? Are our festivals truly religious, or just social events? If these are some of the questions you have contemplated, then this session is for you. Whether you have little or a great deal of knowledge of the religious aspects of these festivals and stories - you will learn something new in this session. We will explore the arts, stories and festivals as a mode of expression and as a window into history and society.

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## Can't We All Just be Jains?

*Speaker: Samani Sanmati Prajna & Samani Unnata Pragya*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 9:00am & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 9:00am - Session 1

Dig into your roots. What do you find? Svetambar or Digambar? Deravasi or Sthanakvasi? Not sure? How about the history of Jainism—when did we start classifying ourselves into sects and more importantly, why do we do that? Believe it or not, this could have all been the result of a drought! This session will help you learn your roots and the reasons that Jainism branched into two different sects.

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## A Session with Ocean Robbins

*Speaker: Ocean Robbins*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 10:15am - Session 2

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Notes:

## Creative Writing

*Speaker: Dr. Atul Shah*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 1:00pm & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 1:00pm - Session 3

Do you know how to express Ahimsa through a photograph? How can you impress others about the value of simplicity with your pen? How can you open the window into your culture for non-Jains? These are some of the questions Dr. Atul Shah, founding editor of the international Jain Spirit magazine will address in this session. He will explain how words and pictures can convey very profound messages for modern society and brainstorm ideas from attendees about how Jain values can be expressed creatively to attract and inform.

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## Beyond (Jain) Belief: Fact or Fiction?

*Speaker: Bhupendra Shivji Soneji*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 1:00pm & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 1:00pm - Session 3

Certain days of the week are more auspicious than others – fact or fiction? Having a mala at home but not using it is bad luck – fact or fiction? Taking the trash out at night causes good luck to escape your home – fact or fiction? Many Jains use cosmology or palm reading to bring meaning into their lives, but are they really legit? This session will dispel common myths or misconceptions and is geared to answer any questions you may have about Jain culture and philosophy.

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## The Melodies of Moksha

*Speaker: Shrenik Shah*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 2:15pm & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 2:15pm - Session 4

Experience Jainism like never before! During this session, you will be surrounded by uplifting rhythms and meditative melodies. By performing ancient Jain stuthis and sutras by way of modern musical instruments and genres, your interest in traditional Jain prayers will be rejuvenated. Come and allow yourself to experience the blissful states of peace that only Jainism and music can bring. It will be a complete immersion of the senses—a musical feast for the body and soul.

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## Jain Cuisine A La Mode

*Speaker: Neha Shah*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 2:15pm & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 2:15pm - Session 4

How do you maintain a balanced diet if you are vegetarian or vegan? Are you really vegetarian if you eat a cake made with eggs? When you order a vegetarian entrée at a restaurant, did you know they might be using fish oil to cook your meal? We all like to go out for a bite, but are sometimes restricted because of our beliefs. Learn about the choices and alternatives you have so that your lifestyle can still fit into a Jain scheme.

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## Forgiveness: The Power Of Humility

*Speaker: Dr. Tara Sethia*

Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 3:45pm - Session 5

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# Jainism Under A Microscope: A Scientific Look

College Track #1

Compare the medical health benefits of yoga to the spiritual enhancement it provides. Was the chakra built on a tradition of stories passed from generation to generation - or is there a scientific and mathematical explanation to the time-cycle? Discover the correlation of astrology with the theory of the stars in Jainism. Who said the paths of science and faith cannot meet at various points?

From kindergarten to middle school to high school - science has been an intertwined into our educational curriculum. Through science, we aim to seek explanations for phenomenon in our life. Science can also help us to define religious views and concepts, as many were created along scientific lines. This track is ideal for those looking for more concrete answers to religious-based questions. Using both basic and advanced scientific discoveries, this track will analyze Jainism at its very core.

## Karma -What Goes Around Comes Around - Or Does it?

*Speaker: Kristi Wiley*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 9:00am & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 9:00am - Session 1

Karma theory – we have all seen the thick books written on this subject. Is it really that hard to understand? Did you know that there is good karma and bad karma and that we are not supposed to want either? This session will break down the karma theory into practical points and discuss the nav tattvas (nine fundamentals) and the fourteen stages of karma theory. More importantly, see how we can incorporate these principles into our daily lives.

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## Extending Compassion Toward All Beings

*Speaker: John Morlino*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 9:00am & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 9:00am - Session 1

What criteria should we use to determine whose life has value and who should be protected from harm? What principles and practices should we live by in order to create a more compassionate society? How do the choices we make each day shape the world in which we live? Grounded in the work of Gandhi, Buddha and Albert Schweitzer, this session explores how a lifestyle guided by the principles of nonviolence and compassion enriches your life while reducing the pain and suffering of humans and other animals.

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## Sex, Drugs, and Alcohol: A Problem or Not?

*Speaker: Dr. Kim Skoog*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 10:15am - Session 2

We all know it's out there. We see it. We may even take part in it. So how do these things and actions relate to your principles and your beliefs? How do you balance what you stand for with what will look "cool" to others? Do you choose one way or another because of your conscious decision or because you were told it was not "right"? Join this session to learn what your peers do and what Jainism advises.

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## How Jain is Your Profession?

*Speaker: Dr. Sushil Jain, Prem Jain, Dr. Atul Shah, John Morlino*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 10:15am - Session 2

Wanna be an FBI agent or a Navy SEAL? Feel pressured to be the bread-maker or stay at home and raise the kids? As Jains, are we restricted to a limited amount of careers and/or roles? As you're faced with these ethical-career choices, listen to those who have already chosen their career paths and gain advice as to which profession is right for you.

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## To Homeopathy Or Not To Homeopathy

Speaker: *Dr. Hemalata Pokharna*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 1:00pm & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 1:00pm - Session 3

Putting a blue colored bottle full of water out in the sun for three days and then drinking it heals a disease? Then why do we spend billions of dollars purchasing allopathic medicine from big pharmaceutical companies? Is one method better than the other, or can both schools of medicine co-exist peacefully? As the popularity of homeopathic and holistic medicine skyrockets worldwide, some experts still question the scientific basis behind such methods. This session discusses the topics from a Jain perspective, and explains how homeopathy is described in Jain philosophy.

Notes:

## Ahmisa: How Practical Is It?

Speaker: *Dr. Ray Greek and Dr. Kokila Doshi*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 2:15pm & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 2:15pm - Session 4

Have you ever had to dissect an animal? Or walk on grass to get somewhere? In adopting professions that refrain from harming living beings, is it then okay for Jains to pollute the very environment they live in? What about dissection, an essential part of medical study? Is it ever all right to harm our surroundings if the end goal is a noble one? It can be hard to strike a balance between Jain ideals and the realities of the modern world. Come find out where Jainism and your peers stand on this important issue.

Notes:

## You are What You Eat

*Speaker: Dr. Anne Vallely*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 2:15pm & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 2:15pm - Session 4

We all know it's out there. We see it. We may even take part in it. So how do these things and actions relate to your principles and your beliefs? How do you balance what you stand for with what will look "cool" to others? Do you choose one way or another because of your conscious decision or because you were told it was not "right"? Join this session to learn what your peers do and what Jainism advises.

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## Comparative Religions - Jainism and the World

*Speaker: Dr. Cromwell Crawford*

Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 3:45pm - Session 5

Jainism is only one of many religions in the world. Specifically, there are approximately 5 million Jains in a world of 6 billion inhabitants. But are Jainism's fundamental principles and views on the world that different than those of other major world religions? Or do all religions fundamentally preach the same ideals? This session explores Jainism's place in relation to the global religious spectrum. Come see Jainism's impact on the modern world and it's lasting effects on other major religions.

Notes:

## Generation Jain

*Speaker: TBA*

Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 3:45pm - Session 5

By the time a person realizes that maybe their parents were right all along, they usually have their own kids who think they are wrong! Even though the common thread of Jainism ties us all, different generations are bound to have different viewpoints. Ahimsa, science, literature, fashion, dating, daily life, and rituals: these are all aspects of life which adults and youth may hold differing opinions on. This session will explore the same topics from broadly different generational views. The floor is open for questions!

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# My So-Called Jain Life: The College Experience

## College Track #2

Questioning. Seeking Answers. Trial & Error. College can be an eye-opening, refreshing, mind growing, and life changing experience. You are finally on your own, dealing with all sorts of new obstacles and challenges. How do our Jain beliefs fit into these new issues you are facing? What does being Jain entail? How do we incorporate the religion into our everyday college life and lifestyle?

Explore and learn about real issues such as homosexuality, inter-racial dating, gender roles, peer pressure, and careers. You will be surprised to learn that Jainism has views on all of these issues – even though you may not always associate religions with these topics. Through this track you will have the opportunity to challenge Jainism, and thus challenge yourself!

## Politically Correct: Jainism on Taboo Issues

*Speaker: Dr. Kim Skoog*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 9:00am & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 9:00am - Session 1

Should the fetus be considered a form of life? Should the death penalty be used? Should we legalize gay marriages? These are just a few points of controversy that we are constantly exposed to. This session will give you a background on what Jainism says regarding these topics and an opportunity for you to discuss these issues with your peers.

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## College Drama: Ahimsa in Thought

*Speaker: Ami Shah, Bhumika Khona, Tanvi Vyas*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 9:00am & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 9:00am - Session 1

Would college be college without the drama? Whether you knew it or not, you may have been a part of the drama scene. You may have even gone against your Jain principles to fit in with a group. But why would you or anyone else choose to do so? Cliques are pervasive throughout a college campus, rumors spread like wildfire, and relationships are the talk of the town. Explore the motivation for these thoughts and the relating facets of ahimsa.

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## Sex, Drugs, and Alcohol: A Problem or Not?

Speaker: Dr. Kim Skoog

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 10:15am - Session 2

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## Gucci = Success?

*Speaker: Ankit Shah*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 1:00pm & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 1:00pm - Session 3

How do we measure success? Are fancy cars, a big house, and expensive clothes an indication of accomplishment? Society often defines success along the lines of financial stability and/or educational enhancement. These "understood goals," influence our career/major choices and lead us to believe that this is the best path to follow. This session will question whether attaining more A's and more money is truly the path that will lead us to Moksha.

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## Dating to Marriage to Everything in Between

*Speaker: TBA*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 1:00pm & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 1:00pm - Session 3

Have you ever dated a non-Jain or non-Indian? Do you feel pressured to get married and to marry a Jain? Those who do marry non-Jains often wonder whether to keep meat in the house or allow their spouse/children to eat meat. As you are approaching the age of marriage, these are valid issues to question. See what you have to say, see what your peers have to say, see what the community has to say.

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## Making the Invisible Visible

*Speaker: Dhrumil Purohit*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 2:15pm & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 2:15pm - Session 4

We all know that as Jains our ultimate goal is to move beyond both the physical and emotional realm to a place of liberation. However, while we progress towards this goal, is it possible to harness our desires and wants in order to maximize our time as a model lay person? In this results seminar, speaker Dhrumil Purohit will coach you through purpose driven workshops to help you clarify what you want in life, why you really want it, and how to manifest it to empower both yourself and others.

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## Religion It's Your Choice- To What Extent?

*Speaker: Dr. Manoj Jain*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 2:15pm & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 2:15pm - Session 4

You were born into it, and you were raised to believe in it. You are Jain because your parents are Jain. Is Jainism tolerant of people who question its principles? Choosing Jainism is your option, so why should we be Jain? Because Jainism is a practical religion, there are ways to adjust your life outside the home. Attend this session as a forum for voicing your questions.

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## Comparative Religions - Jainism and the World

*Speaker: Dr. Cromwell Crawford*

Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 3:45pm - Session 5

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Notes:

# Anekantvaad: Let's Keep It Real

## College Track #3

Does it seem possible and practical to follow Jain principles when we live in a world where “more” is the focus - more money, more promotions, bigger houses, more power? What if Bush were Jain, what would the US be like? The world? What is the importance of doing pooja today than when it was developed in different era? These are just a few examples of realistic questions that arise regarding Jain principles.

This track will use the inherent meaning of Anekantvaad, multiplicity of views, to explore the infinite viewpoints among us. You will be surprised that there is always a divergence in opinions, even amongst your own peers. Most importantly, you will have the opportunity to discuss the practicality and realistic aspects of Jainism within your own lives and surround environments.

## Views on Politics In & Out of the Temple

*Speaker: Suchita Shah & Subir Shah*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 9:00am & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 9:00am - Session 1

If Jainism emphasizes non-possessiveness, why are the temples we are building so lavish and expensive? Is it worth it to spend so much money if it means it will put the community in debt? Are we rewarding the wealthy by giving the highest bidder a chance to do puja? Isn't the primary purpose for the temple to foster an environment of growth, peace and simplicity? What happens when there is conflict amongst the community members on the way "things" should be done? Discuss controversial topics with each other and help find the middle ground after taking your peer's perspectives into account.

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## The Practicality of Jain Tradition in America

*Speaker: Kamal Shah*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 9:00am & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 9:00am - Session 1

Is it possible to live in America and practice Jainism?

How do you deal with some rituals and practices which make no sense? Sometimes Jain concept of the universe and geography seems totally beyond comprehension, how can we accept that? Is there any proof which shows existence of the soul? Can Jain theory or Karma apply to the modern world we live in? In this session, you will find the answers to these questions as well as the tools for modifying Jainism to suit your modern life. Most importantly, you will be able to hear others questions and thoughts on some of the same experiences you have gone through.

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## Sex, Drugs, and Alcohol: A Problem or Not?

*Speaker: Dr. Kim Skoog*

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## How Jain is Your Profession?

*Speaker: Dr. Sushil Jain, Prem Jain, Dr. Atul Shah, John Morlino*

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## Science of Human Understanding

*Speaker: Kristi Wiley*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 1:00pm & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 1:00pm - Session 3

Every proposition, statement or principle is relative. Three blind men describing an elephant through their own particular contact with one part of an elephant are all right. Each person is limited by his/her own perspectives and therefore cannot either pass judgment or act upon a limited point of view. This is the principle of Anekantvaad. In this session, discuss the true definition of Anekantvaad and how to practically implement it in our everyday lives. Be prepared for an eye-opening experience that will give you methods of using Jainism in ways you never imagined possible.

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## Anekantavada: The Most Misunderstood Jain Concept

*Speaker: Amar Salgia and Gabriel Figueiroa*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 1:00pm & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 1:00pm - Session 3

The most misunderstood principle in Jainism is Anekantavada. It has been poorly defined and misused time after time by scholars and speakers, including many Jains. This lack of understanding has led to broad misconceptions about Jainism as a whole, and has prevented Jains from truly benefitting from this tremendous and unique tool. In this session, we will briefly examine the many flawed definitions of Anekantavada and their unfortunate consequences. Then we will begin to explore what Anekantavada really means and how we can use it in practical ways in our everyday lives.

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## Widen Your Scope

*Speaker: TBA*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 2:15pm & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 2:15pm - Session 4

Ever wish you had three eyes? Anekant is one of the most powerful theories known to humans, as it introduces the ability to realize inherent right and wrong in all theory and thought. Using this theory correctly helps create more compassion and spreads acceptance of rival thought. It shows us that we have limited perception and can only see parts of the puzzle. In this session, you will learn that as individuals we do not have all the answers, but as a collective conscious we do.

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## Socially Acceptable Himsa, and Hidden Himsa

*Speaker: TBA*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 2:15pm & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 2:15pm - Session 4

There are forms of violence out there that we do not recognize, or that we minimize, because they are a normal part of life for the vast majority of us. We do not think of these practices as being violent, or we do not know that these practices involve violence. This session will discuss these types of violence in terms of the Jain definition of himsa/ahimsa. What are some major examples of these types of violence that may involve us? If we do not know that we are committing violence, can we be held accountable for it? Increase your awareness of ahimsa in your day to day life and fully understand the fundamental principle of ahimsa.

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## Comparative Religions - Jainism and the World

*Speaker: Dr. Cromwell Crawford*

Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 3:45pm - Session 5

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Notes:

## **“To Be Or Not To Be”: Jainism & Ethics**

### **Post-College Track #1**

In every career decision, ethics play an integral role. When you combine the values and philosophies of Jainism with your professional goals - the results can sometimes brew a variety of dilemmas, issues and discussions. You'll be glad to know that there are still several paths to success that abide by Jain principles. In this track, you will have the opportunity to bounce your thoughts off of others going through the same experiences when making these important life choices.

What are the implications of being Jain and owning a restaurant? What if the CEO of Enron was Jain? How would the corporation look now? Can you consciously invest in a company that partakes in non-Jain actions? Why should we even consider our Jain principles when evaluating our careers? Take a look at your career and ask yourself - how Jain is your profession?

**J2J : Asian Art Museum of San Francisco***Speaker: Museum Docents*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 from 9:00am - 11:00am - Sessions 1&amp;2

The Asian Art Museum of San Francisco is one of the largest museums in the Western world devoted exclusively to Asian art. Its holdings include nearly 15,000 treasures spanning 6,000 years of history, representing cultures throughout Asia. The immense size of its collection makes it the largest museum in the United States devoted exclusively to the arts of Asia. The museum's mission is to lead a diverse global audience in discovering the unique material, aesthetic, and intellectual achievements of Asian art and culture.

The Asian Art Museum is one of the few museums that have undertaken the collaborative effort of presenting its collection as a comprehensive whole, introducing themes and storylines that are echoed and repeated throughout all of the museum's collection galleries. The integrated endeavor was due to a coordinated effort from the museum's curatorial team, art historians, religious studies scholars, and anthropologists to ensure that the presentation was in line with current academic thought.

**Collection Highlights from the region of India:**

- A comprehensive collection of Indian stone sculpture, particularly Buddhist works from the birthplace of Buddhism.
- A strong collection of Sikh art – the Asian Art Museum is the only museum in the Western hemisphere with a gallery devoted to Sikh art.
- Temple sculptures, reliefs, bronze images, jades, miniature paintings, and wood carvings, reflecting the major trends in all major religions of India over a 2,000 year period – Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, Sikh, Jain.

As we aim to learn more about the roots of Jainism and its presence in history, it is necessary to know the context within which Jainism fostered. Through this unique trip to the Asian Art Museum, attendees will learn about other religions within South and Southeast Asia, and how they relate to Jainism. Knowledgeable docents will lead the participants on guided tours through the museum and attendees will also have time to roam the collections during the rest of the visit.

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## Tough Decisions

*Speaker: Manish Shah*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 1:00pm & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 9:00am - Session 1,3

Behind the scenes handshakes, conducting research on animals, buying drinks or non-vegetarian foods for friends—whether at work, in school or with family and friends, we all make difficult choices. We rely on our experience, values and personal ethics to guide us during this decision-making process. Though is your conclusion always correct? Address how we incorporate (or avoid) principles of Jainism in our toughest decisions through interactive discussions that will push you to think outside of the box.

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## Things That Make You Go Hmm....

*Speaker: Usha Jain*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 1:00pm & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 1:00pm - Session 3

Do promotions, large salaries, multiple cars, and a beautiful home define success? What about defining popularity by one's social activities that can include drinking, partying, gambling and gossiping? Many strive to have both, but do they really still live and follow a "Jain lifestyle?" If you partake in these beliefs and activities, are you less Jain? Define and discuss Jainism in today's day and age.

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## Hypocrisy at it's Best?

*Speaker: Sadhvi Shilapiji*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 2:15pm & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 2:15pm - Session 4

Jainism tells us to respect everyone's beliefs and views. Jainism strives on simplicity, purity and peace. It focuses on socio, political, and economic equality. Then why do we constantly find ourselves supporting only a certain Jain sect, building expensive/elaborate temples, offering puja to the highest bidder, and bickering over temple politics on a daily basis? What's the deal? Discuss what needs to be done so that we can continue to integrate Jainism into our lives without being hypocrites in doing so.

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## Who Cares?

*Speaker: Dr. Atul Shah*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 2:15pm & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 2:15pm - Session 4

Businessmen and professionals constitute one of the most influential groups in today's society. However, modern financial and professional scandals suggest that they are often greedy and self-ish. Social accountability and responsibility are far from their minds. In Indian tradition, the higher the knowledge and status, the greater the responsibility. In this presentation, Dr. Atul Shah will talk about the Hindu/Jain perspective, demonstrating that ethical behavior is not a sacrifice but a source of deep joy and fulfillment.

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## Executive Forum

*Speaker: Prem Jain, Rina Shah, Nipun Mehta*

Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 3:45pm - Session 5

Want to climb up the corporate ladder but don't know how to get there? Or are you thinking about starting a new adventure in your life? Talk with people about your own as well as their experiences in the "professional" world. Share how you got to where you are in your career path. Learn how others did it for themselves. Meet people who have already done it, make some connections, and pick up some tips. Have others come chat with you about your passions in life. Be an inspiration. Be inspired.

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## Do You Mocktail?

*Speaker: TBA*

Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 3:45pm - Session 5

There's no better way to unwind after a productive and exciting day of exercising your mind! Come on over, come on in. Pull up a seat and take a load off your feet! Join your new friends in an early evening social mixer to end your weekend with a bang! There will be beverages to tickle your taste buds, sounds to move your feet, and energy to shake but not stir it all up!

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# All Roads Lead East

## Post-College Track #2

Yoga, Meditation, Karma, Spirituality, holistic medicine. These are beliefs and practices that are strongly followed across religions in the East. Are they just the latest buzz words, a passing fad? Or, is there truth and value to these concepts? Are these religions, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islamic, Judaism, really that different from each other? That similar?

There is much to be gained by comparing the various Eastern religions that have all evolved and had an impact on Jainism. The recent fascination with Eastern philosophy, culture, and ideas, causes us to question the true basis for religions from these regions. This track will explore some of the real tenets of Eastern thought and how they relate to Jain theory. Come be enlightened.

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*Speaker: Museum Docents*

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## **The Elephant and the 6 Blind Men**

*Speaker: Dr. Cromwell Crawford*

Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 9:00am - Session 1

It is better to be blind than to see things from only one point of view. Is Jainism the absolute truth? Are only the privileged Jain? Or can Buddhists and Hindus also attain moksha? Examine the similarities and the differences between Jainism and other eastern philosophies and religions. Use this discussion to examine the question of whether truth is just a matter of perspective.

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## **Bringing Peace to Aging and Dying**

*Speaker: Ron Valle*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 1:00pm & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 1:00pm - Session 3

When we resist the natural changes in life, especially changes involved with aging and dying, the result often ends in grief. Yet grief and death surround us. To avoid them is to deny life itself. Through discussion and an exercise that involves visualizing the aging process, participants will be encouraged to explore their own unresolved grief as well as their fear of death. By initiating an open discussion and embracing our confidence, compassion, and peace of mind, we can attain our own personal transformation in our perception of these life changes.

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## In Pursuit of Selflessness: Music as Moksha

*Speaker: Parag Chordia*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 2:15pm - Session 4

After giving an introduction to North Indian classical music, this talk will explore how music can be used as a central process in spiritual searching. We will discuss how music can enrich spiritual life, and explore concrete listening strategies towards this goal. Finally, we will draw connections between mindful listening and selfless being, using music as a model of enlightenment.

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## Peace Through Unconditional Compassion

*Speaker: John Morlino*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 2:15pm & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 2:15pm - Session 4

We all want peace in the world, peace in our neighborhoods and peace in our hearts. To achieve these goals, we must expand our capacity to extend compassion and forgiveness unconditionally -- even toward those who harm others. Drawing from the experience of the 22-day siege of the "Beltway Snipers," this presentation emphasizes embodying the fullest principles of Ahimsa to bring about a genuine sense of peace.

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## Executive Forum

*Speaker: Prem Jain, Rina Shah, Nipun Mehta*

Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 3:45pm - Session 5

Want to climb up the corporate ladder but don't know how to get there? Or are you thinking about starting a new adventure in your life? Talk with people about your own as well as their experiences in the "professional" world. Share how you got to where you are in your career path. Learn how others did it for themselves. Meet people who have already done it, make some connections, and pick up some tips. Have others come chat with you about your passions in life. Be an inspiration. Be inspired.

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## Do You Mocktail?

*Speaker: TBA*

Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 3:45pm - Session 5

There's no better way to unwind after a productive and exciting day of exercising your mind! Come on over, come on in. Pull up a seat and take a load off your feet! Join your new friends in an early evening social mixer to end your weekend with a bang! There will be beverages to tickle your taste buds, sounds to move your feet, and energy to shake but not stir it all up!

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# Being Jain Tomorrow

## Post-College Track #3

As we proceed down the road of life, how can we be better Jains tomorrow? When choosing your life partner, will you compromise, retain or lose your Jain values? Will you marry outside of your own religion? Will you cook meat for your spouse if he/she chooses to eat meat? Of the many Jain principles you maintain or compromise, what will you pass on to your kids?

This track will challenge issues that young adults, spouses and future-parents will face as second-generation Indian-American Jains. Through discussion and other formats, you will seek real life applications of Jainism that you will be able to implement in the very near future. How will the decisions you make today, impact your life tomorrow? - After all "tomorrow is another day"!

**J2J : Asian Art Museum of San Francisco***Speaker: Museum Docents*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 from 9:00am - 11:00am - Sessions 1&amp;2

The Asian Art Museum of San Francisco is one of the largest museums in the Western world devoted exclusively to Asian art. Its holdings include nearly 15,000 treasures spanning 6,000 years of history, representing cultures throughout Asia. The immense size of its collection makes it the largest museum in the United States devoted exclusively to the arts of Asia. The museum's mission is to lead a diverse global audience in discovering the unique material, aesthetic, and intellectual achievements of Asian art and culture.

The Asian Art Museum is one of the few museums that have undertaken the collaborative effort of presenting its collection as a comprehensive whole, introducing themes and storylines that are echoed and repeated throughout all of the museum's collection galleries. The integrated endeavor was due to a coordinated effort from the museum's curatorial team, art historians, religious studies scholars, and anthropologists to ensure that the presentation was in line with current academic thought.

## Collection Highlights from the region of India:

- A comprehensive collection of Indian stone sculpture, particularly Buddhist works from the birthplace of Buddhism.
- A strong collection of Sikh art – the Asian Art Museum is the only museum in the Western hemisphere with a gallery devoted to Sikh art.
- Temple sculptures, reliefs, bronze images, jades, miniature paintings, and wood carvings, reflecting the major trends in all major religions of India over a 2,000 year period – Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, Sikh, Jain.

As we aim to learn more about the roots of Jainism and its presence in history, it is necessary to know the context within which Jainism fostered. Through this unique trip to the Asian Art Museum, attendees will learn about other religions within South and Southeast Asia, and how they relate to Jainism. Knowledgeable docents will lead the participants on guided tours through the museum and attendees will also have time to roam the collections during the rest of the visit.

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**Jainism: A to Z***Speaker: Dr. Pravin Shah*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 2:15pm &amp; Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 9:00am - Session 1,4

Anekantvad, the Time Cycle, Nav Tatvas, Five Principles, Namokar Mantra, 24 Tirthankars... How much do you really know about Jainism? Could you explain the principles of your faith to someone else? How similar is it to Hinduism, Buddhism? This session will address the fundamentals of Jainism and discuss the common misconceptions and stereotypes of practicing Jains. If you don't know a lot about Jainism, but want to understand the basics and the logic behind this philosophy, this session is ideal for you!

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**Jungle Fever vs. Monsoon Wedding***Speaker: TBA*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 1:00pm &amp; Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 1:00pm - Session 3

Fact: Not everyone will marry a Jain. As we look around in our own families, friend circles, and relations, we are seeing people mixing faiths, races and backgrounds. Questions about the future will arise in any relationship. In western culture, couples often live together before marriage; but would Jain parents approve of this? Should your kids be exposed to both religions, or will that be more confusing? Finding a balance is not always easy, but hearing examples, stories and role-playing may help you understand relationships from a different perspective. Join this session to learn about and discuss all of the above.

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## Animals, The Body, & The Ideal Self in Jainism

*Speaker: Dr. Anne Vallely*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 1:00pm & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 1:00pm - Session 3

Jain ethics are commonly viewed as closely related to the ethics of animal rights. While no other religion devotes as much concern to the inherent dignity of all life forms, it can be argued that the Jain concern with non-violence and with world renunciation is a strategy to demarcate the human realm from that of the rest of nature, and to deny the limits of physicality for human beings. All religious traditions posit a unique space for human creation. Humans are never just one life form among many; they are always special in some vitally important way. This session is an open discussion of the nature of Jain ethics, and the role that animals play in the creation of the ideal self.

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## Peering Into the Crystal Ball

*Speaker: Pallavi Gala, Samta Jain, and Bhumika Khona*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 2:15pm & Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 2:15pm - Session 4

Most of us can appreciate the community our parents have actively developed to preserve our cultural and spiritual heritage. All around the world, we see new Jain temples being built - leading to more functions for families to come together. But how long will this last? As the future torchbearers of our temples and community, will we be able to pass on the traditions and knowledge to our own kids? Is it really that important for us to "practice" Jainism, or is it enough to merely "follow" the principles? The future will always be uncertain, but this session will consider a variety of relevant situations that our generation will undoubtedly face.

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## What's Happening?

*Speaker: Dr. Christopher Chappel*

Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 2:15pm - Session 4

2004 will be marked by numerous important events – an election, the Olympics, a war, a recovering economy, and landmark efforts for peace. The world around us is constantly evolving into a mixture of opinions, approaches, philosophies, religions, and beliefs. How are we solving the problems around us – with violence or peace? How far can medicine go, until it becomes unethical? These are just a few of the current events and issues that will be presented and discussed in this session. Although Jainism is an ancient religion, there are relevant methods for approaching current events using the principles of the religion.

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## Executive Forum

*Speaker: Prem Jain, Rina Shah, Nipun Mehta*

Saturday, July 3rd, 2004 at 3:45pm - Session 5

Want to climb up the corporate ladder but don't know how to get there? Or are you thinking about starting a new adventure in your life? Talk with people about your own as well as their experiences in the "professional" world. Share how you got to where you are in your career path. Learn how others did it for themselves. Meet people who have already done it, make some connections, and pick up some tips. Have others come chat with you about your passions in life. Be an inspiration. Be inspired.

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# Social Sessions

## Classes for All Ages

These unique sessions will provide a key learning environment for the attendees to explore new topics that reach beyond the breadth of religion. As youth, we have come to realize that social interaction plays a large role in our lives today, with our surrounding environments often molding our personalities as a result. These sessions will help facilitate interaction among the various age groups, high school, college and post-college, by introducing topics that span across all ages.

Inherently larger in size, these sessions will also provide a broad range of perspectives, where attendees will be enlightened by the diversity of opinion around them. Through interesting topics such as: "Soul Food," "The Leaders of Tomorrow," "Quick to Guess," and "Diversity Dude," participants will be able to learn about social-based topics that they experience daily. Most importantly, they will be able to meet people of all ages while learning something fun and new!

## Diversity, Dude!

*Speaker: Usha Jain*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 3:45pm - Session 5

Asian, South Asian, American, Indian, Jain? Short, tall, dark, fair? Vegetarian, Vegan, Raw Foodist? Country, Rock, Jazz, or Hip hop? Today's world is all about diversity, dude! But how do we deal with diversity? Are you really as open-minded and compassionate as you claim to be? What do you do? What do you think? What do you say? And how do the principles of Jainism apply to your everyday encounters? Take center stage, play games, and participate in eye-opening discussions. Put yourself to the ultimate test. Put yourself in other peoples' shoes and discover things about yourself you never knew. You may just be surprised!

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## Do You Feel the Energy?

*Speaker: Bhupendra Shivji Soneji*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 3:45pm - Session 5

Do the words "Pranic Healing", "Reiki", "Yoga", "Meditation" conjure up images? Does your soul have a color? Or is it all just more New Age mumbo jumbo? Regardless of your beliefs, these methods have been practiced for centuries, and have even been documented in ancient religious texts. Come see what Jainism has to say about these techniques, and whether they're actually all they're cracked up to be.

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## The Leaders of Tomorrow

*Speaker: Pravin Shah, Jugna Shah, Shrenik Shah, Manoj Jain*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 3:45pm - Session 5

This is you! This is the person sitting next to you! Share your experiences with each other and learn something new! Make a difference in your community and the world! You may meet someone who is already doing what you strive to do. Learn what you and the people around you are passionate about. Inspire each other to believe in your dreams and to bring them into reality!

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## Men vs. Women: A Jain Perspective

*Speaker: Dr. Kim Skoog*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 3:45pm - Session 5

What does the interaction consist of between men and women in Jain society? Are men supposed to play a dominant role in relationships and society? Or do the Jain scriptures speak of gender equity? And what do different sects of Jainism dictate about gender roles? Historically, men have played a significant role in Jainism, though women have done just as much in shaping Jain history (Queen Trishila, Mallinath, and Chandanbala). Come explore the significance of gender in history and the progressive nature of the interaction between men and women.

Notes:

## Quick to Guess?

*Speaker: TBA*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 3:45pm - Session 5

Have you always loved playing board games, card games, and games in general? Do you wonder how to balance your die-hard competitive spirit with your Jain principles? Win, Lose or Draw, Charades, and Battle of the Sexes are a few of the games that will be offered in this session. This is a great opportunity to learn a little bit about Jainism and meet a lot of great people. Put on your thinking caps, bring your team spirit, and come join the fun!

Notes:

## Soul Food

*Speaker: Sangeeta Kumar*

Friday, July 2nd, 2004 at 3:45pm - Session 5

Chocolate cake without eggs, yogurt without gelatin, and Thanksgiving without meat. Are you hungry yet? Incorporating Jain beliefs into your diet while remaining healthy is definitely an option, even during your college years. Sick of eating the same vegetarian options in the dorms or making pasta every night for dinner in the apartments? Learn what you can do to expand your options and you may even be inspired to think of new recipes!

Notes:



# Speaker Biographies

## Meet The Speakers

### Session Leaders

The backbone to this convention consists of a tremendous group of esteemed speakers from all around the world. YJA Convention 2004 will present 51 unique speakers over the course of 4 days. These speakers have all been invited to share their relevant thoughts on various topics relating to Jainism and beyond.

Although each speaker has a unique message to convey, they can all share a common experience of Jainism having a positive impact on their lives. As you sit through the sessions presented by these inspirational speakers, you will come to observe the characteristics and visions that have carried them to where they are today. As youth, we have much to gain from listening and contributing to the thoughts of those who have closely studied and/or analyzed Jain Principles.

Following the theme of diversity, our speakers cover a broad spectrum of ages and backgrounds – from college students to respected monks. You will likely encounter differing viewpoints, experiences, and thoughts, that will all help you mold your own opinions of Jain Principles. Each of these speakers will be an integral part of the process as you question “YJain? To See, To Know, To Realize.”

## Dr. Christopher Key Chapple

Christopher Key Chapple is Professor of Theological Studies, Associate Academic Vice President of LMU Extension, which includes Study Abroad, the Encore Program, Summer Session, the Center for Religion and Spirituality, the Los Angeles Center for International Studies, and Continuing Education at Loyola Marymount University. Dr. Chapple received his undergraduate degree in Comparative Literature and Religious Studies from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and his doctorate in the History of Religions through the Theology Department at Fordham University. He served as Assistant Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies of World Religions and taught Sanskrit, Hinduism, Jainism, and Buddhism for five years at the State University of New York at Stony Brook before joining the faculty at LMU.

## Parag Chordia

Parag Chordia is currently finishing his PhD at Stanford University's CCRMA (Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics). His research focuses on building intelligent listening agents, and novel approaches to music analysis. Prior to Stanford, Parag earned his B.A. from Yale University in applied mathematics and philosophy.

For the past ten years he has studied *sarod* with Pandit Buddhadev Das Gupta, a brilliant, pioneering *sarod* player who is one of India's greatest instrumentalists. He has taught Indian classical music at Stanford and U.C. Santa Cruz, and since 1998, has been the host of "Gharana Music" and "Carnatic Radio," popular radio programs devoted to Indian art music. In 2001, he founded bol records. His work as a producer recently appeared on the Dhamaal debut album.

Growing up near New York City, Jainism has played a crucial role in forming his personal philosophy. He is particularly drawn to its emphasis on ethical action grounded in analysis and reflective thinking. The provocative ideas of Jain philosophy continue to be an inspiration and challenge to him.

## Dr. Cromwell Crawford

Born in Jhansi, reared in Bombay, Cromwell Crawford received a graduate degree from Serampore University, and taught college students in Pune. He immigrated to America in the 1960s to obtain an M.A. in Philosophy from Indiana University, Bloomington, and a Th.D. from The Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley. His current position is Chair, Department of Religion at the University of Hawaii. His latest publication is "Hindu Bioethics For the 21st Century." Crawford has delivered India's National Lectures, sponsored by the Indian Council of Philosophic Research, at the universities of Lucknow, Calcutta, Delhi, and Bombay. He also contributed ideas which led to the creation, under Dr. Sulekh Jain, of The Jain Academic Foundation of North America (1993). He has spoken at 2 YJA conventions, and is a Board Member of Jain Spirit.

## Dallas Youth Group

The Dallas Jain Youth group is comprised of a small group of hard-working individuals who are very active at their temple. They have organized japs, conducted canned food and clothes drives, participated in Habitat for Humanity and annual picnics, and have participated in and hosted regional conferences with the Houston and UTD Jain Youth Groups. This year's group, here to present and represent the South, include: Ami Mehta, Amit Ravani, Ashina Gupta, Chris Dharod, Paras Khara, Priya Ghelani, Priya Shah, Shrenik Shah, Sonia Ghelani, and Sukeshi Shah!

## Dr. Kokila Doshi

Dr. Kokila Doshi is a Professor of Economics at the University of San Diego. Dr. Doshi has received her PhD in Economics from the University of Rochester. Her research has been published in numerous professional journals and presented at various national and international conferences. Her research interests focus on the economic policies of the Pacific Rim countries.

At the UCSD, she is an active member of Joan Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice. She has been a part of a select working group administering Cultural Diversity Grant and Irvine Grant for the Improvement of Statistical Education. She specializes in Regional Economic Impact Analysis and has worked on consulting projects for ESPN, sports marketing firms, and National Association for Sports Councils. In 2003, Dr. Doshi received the University Professorship Award for her balanced contributions in Teaching, Research, and Service.

Dr. Doshi received the JAINA Recognition Award in 1995 for her leadership and contribution to the community. She has served as JAINA Director for the past six years. Dr. Doshi is a very active member of the Jain Society of San Diego. She established pathshala for kids and has directed pathshala activities for ten years.

## Gabriel Figueroa

Gabriel Figueroa grew up in the Dallas area and currently resides in Austin, Texas. Though raised in a Catholic family, he has followed Jainism since 1996. His article "The Path Unlike Any Other: How and Why I came to Follow Jain Philosophy," describes his journey into and acceptance of Jainism. He has conducted many groundbreaking sessions at several different Jain conventions. Gabriel wants to make Jainism accessible to young Jains by promoting understanding. His hope is that they will grow to appreciate Jainism in a new light and share its special message with the world. He has a message for Jains, "Jainism is for everyone, and right now very few people even know that it exists. You are very fortunate to have the opportunity to bring Jainism to the world stage. One of the greatest things that you can do is to learn as much as you can about Jainism, practice it to the greatest extent possible in your own life, and share it with those around you." Gabriel has studied philosophy and world religions extensively. He has been a vegan since 1990, and serves as a board member of the American Vegan Society.

## Pallavi Gala

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Pallavi Gala has lived in Southern California for 25 years. She is a microbiologist and a biophysicist by training, and a mother by occupation. Mrs. Gala has been a Pathshala teacher for over ten years. For the last six years she has been leading the Teen Discussion group where high school juniors and seniors learn and discuss the application of Jain philosophy in their daily lives. Mrs. Gala conducts a session with the Jain Study Group, consisting of college students and young professionals. This year she has started an advanced Gujarati class for young adults who want to learn the language to enable them to read the religious material directly. Mrs. Gala loves to experiment with international recipes and formulate unorthodox dishes within the dietary guidelines. Mrs. Gala extends her warmest wishes to all the participants and hopes that the convention helps them clarify their identity and strengthen their conviction of Jain values.

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## Dr. Dipak Jain

Dipak Jain was named dean of the Kellogg School of Management in 2001. He joined the Kellogg School of Management faculty in 1986 as an associate professor and became an associate dean in 1996. In 1994 he was named the school's Sandy and Morton Goldman Professor of Entrepreneurial Studies and professor of marketing. In addition to his teaching at Kellogg, Jain has served as a visiting professor at the Koblenz Business School, Germany; Nijenrode University, the Netherlands; Chulalongkorn University, Thailand; IIT Delhi, India; Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong; and Tel Aviv University, Israel. Jain received a bachelor's degree in statistics, and a master's in mathematical statistics from Gauhati University, India. He received a master's degree in operations research and a doctorate in marketing from the University of Texas at Dallas.

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## Dr. Manoj Jain

Manoj Jain is a clinical assistant professor at the University of Tennessee in Memphis, an infectious disease specialist, and the Medical Director of Tennessee's Quality Improvement Organization. He has conducted research and has lectured on the connection between spirituality and medicine. He recently completed a study with Harvard Medical School in which he examined the therapeutic effect of prayer. Jain has also served as a consultant to the World Bank and has authored two books and numerous medical articles. He is a board member of the M.K Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence and works closely with the director, Arun Gandhi.

## Prem Jain

Mr. Prem Jain holds a BE with honors from BITS Pilani, India and a masters degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from the University of California, Davis. He is the Senior Vice President and General Manager of the Router Technology Group at Cisco Systems which includes all Cisco routers and access products. Prem joined Cisco in 1993 when Cisco acquired Crescendo Communications.

Prem Jain is committed to promoting Jain values in the western world. He was President of Jain Milan, founder and president of the Jain Center of Northern California, a VP of JAINA, the convener of the 1991 JAINA convention at Stanford, California and is currently on the board of directors of Jain Center of Northern California.

Jain's hobbies include skiing, hiking and playing 'bridge'. He is actively involved in volunteer work for non-profit organizations, fundraising for the homeless, and helping San Francisco Bay Area schools.

## Rakhi Jain

Rakhi Jain lives in Norwood, MA, and has been a part of the Jain Center of Greater Boston for many years. She graduated from Northeastern University with a bachelor's degree in Computer Science.

She has been actively involved with the JCGB pathshala for more than 7 years and has presented with the team at previous JAINA, YJP and YJA conventions. She serves on the Jain Center of Greater Boston's Executive committee as a youth coordinator. In this role, she has organized many events for the youth, including Walk for Hunger, and a summer camp with Shree Balbhadr Ji in 2003.

Rakhi works for Cisco Systems as a software Engineer in the Routing group. She enjoys reading, watching movies, going hiking, playing volleyball, and just hanging out with her friends outdoors.

By understanding and practicing the three core principles of Jainism: Non-violence, Non-absolutism, and Non-Possessiveness, she believes we can bring peace to our lives and to those around us.

## Samta Jain

Passionate about bhangra and business, Samta Jain has participated in the Jain and Indian communities for many years-planning Jain conventions, teaching/learning several genres of Indian dance both professionally and for community service. Currently she is managing her family's marketing company in Orange County, California. Samta enjoys backpacking around the globe, working out and laughing.

## Dr. Sushil Jain

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Dr. Sushil Jain currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Federation of Jain Associations in North America (JAINA) as Secretary. He is also Chairperson of the JAINA Public Affairs Council. As medical consultant to the White House in 2001, he organized Jain prayers to be recited at the US House of Representatives, as well as at the US Senate.

## Usha Jain

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Usha Jain earned a Public Speaking Gold Medal from the state of Haryana and a George Washington Medal of Honor from the Freedom Foundation of America. She started a neighborhood breakfast club in 1988 and every month 8-10 neighbors gather at a local coffee shop. Usha gives presentations to Rotary and social clubs on social interest topics and loves to tell motivational and humorous stories. She is the mother of 3 wonderful kids, came to America in 1969 with her husband Jay Jain, and started her own business from home in 1988. Usha Jain loves to be around people and her philosophy of life is simple: watch what you say, the wound of a knife can heal, but the wound of unkind words never heals!

## Bhumika Khona

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Bhumika Khona is a 24-year old strategic marketing specialist for a software company in Orange County, California. She has been involved with the Jain Center of Southern California for several years and served on the Los Angeles Convention Committee (2000) and as Director of Publications for YJA in 2001. She hopes to share her unique experiences to teach the youth that..."Sometimes it is the act of taking care of yourself that teaches others how to take care of you."

## Sangeeta Kumar

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Sangeeta lives in Norfolk, VA and is a humane educator for People for the Ethical Treatment for Animals. She has been committed to educating the public about a compassionate lifestyle for over 10 years. Youth empowerment has been a prime focus of her activism. This has led her to work in numerous schools with student groups, and conduct scores of conferences and workshops. She has founded and directed nonprofits in the U.S. and in Canada. She has also appeared in both local and national media as an expert on pertinent animal and environmental protection issues. She has a degree in Environmental Leadership and recently acquired a Masters in Humane Education.

## Los Angeles Youth Group

Neera and Ronak Jhaveri, and Ankit and Payal Vasa are two pairs of brother and sister all from Cypress, California. Neera and Payal are both 22 years old and seniors in college. Ronak and Ankit are 19 years old (junior and sophomore respectively). Neera goes to California State University, Long Beach and is a Human Development major with aspirations of becoming a Physical Therapist. Payal goes to California State University Pomona and is a Biology major planning on becoming a Pharmacist. Ronak goes to University of California, Irvine and is a Biology major with a minor in Management aspiring to become a Pediatrician. Ankit goes to University of La Verne and is a Biology/Chemistry major aiming to become a Dentist. All four are unique in their own ways with respect to issues that they have had to confront, especially in dealing with their parents while they were -and still are- growing up. They plan to share their personal stories and advice regarding the issues young Jains face in relationships with parents. All four of them have attended Jain classes since they were little children and hope to provide Jain perspectives to possible parent management situations, along with logical and practical solutions to problems that may arise. They aspire to "Be the change you want to see in the world" (Mahatma Gandhi) and hope that they can inspire you to do the same!

## Dr. Tushar Mehta

Dr. Tushar Mehta has a liberal arts degree from McMaster University, and graduated from medical school at the University of Toronto. He recently joined a family practice in the Toronto area and is pursuing a part time fellowship in Addiction Medicine. In his spare time he enjoys outdoor activities and helping out with various Jain activities.

## John Morlino

John Morlino is an internationally known writer and speaker on the topics of nonviolence and compassion. He is also Founder of The ETHIC (The Essence of True Humanity Is Compassion), a nonprofit organization working to create a world where humans and other animals live free from violence and oppression.

Mr. Morlino's articles have been published in North America, Russia, Belgium, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Excerpts can be viewed on The ETHIC's website: <http://the-ethic.org>. His previous speaking engagements include: YJA (2002); JAINA (2003); Ahimsa Diwas (2003); and the National Animal Rights Conference (2000-2003).

"John Morlino delivers a profound message that needs to be heard. He explores the fundamental principles of humanity and challenges us to confront the most difficult questions that we as people face. In so doing, he awakens our spirit of compassion and guides us towards a kinder, gentler world." - Brenda Davis, RD, British Columbia - Co-author of Becoming Vegan.

## Dr. Hema Pokharna

Hema Pokharna, PhD Researcher at University of Chicago. Independently she is the director of Journeys of Life: A program to promote health, wholeness and disease prevention. Hema gives extended training sessions and lectures across the country and around the world. Her work provides powerful and practical training in connecting with self (meditation and focusing) and others (non-violent communication). Born and raised in India, she received much of her religious instruction from Jain monks and nuns who emphasized inner peace and self-discipline. In the United States, she also received extensive training at the Gestalt Institute of Cleveland, the Center for Nonviolent Communication, and the Focusing Institute, including training in Alternatives to Violence, Conflict resolution and Mediation.

## Dr. Mandakini Pokharna

Mandakini Pokharna, MD, practices internal medicine in Chicago. Also trained at the center of Nonviolent communication, Manda came to the United States from India with her sister, Dr. Hema. Together they have created and taught inspiring and lively workshops around the world, introducing the audience to the basic skills and concepts of non-violent communication. Their workshops use a variety of practical and innovative techniques including lecture, discussion, role-playing, story telling and puppet play designed to stimulate thought, creativity and connection.

## Samani Sanmati Pragya

Samani Sanmati Pragya is a disciple of Acharya Mahapragya. She has a Masters Degree in Sanskrit from Ajmer University and a second Master's Degree in Jain Philosophy and Comparative Studies from Jain Vishwa Bharati Institute. She is an innovative teacher who has taught in Brahmi Vidyapith and has contributed her services to many educational institutions. She has traveled to thirteen different countries including the USA, Canada, Israel, and Europe and lectured on different aspects of Jainism and Ahimsa. She is currently stationed in Houston, where under her guidance Preksha meditation and other Jain spiritual activities have flourished.

## Samani Unnata Prajna

Samani Unnat Prajna is a disciple of Acharya Mahapragya. She has a Masters Degree in Jain Philosophy and Comparative Studies from Jain Vishwa Bharati Institution. She has traveled to the US and England and lectured on different aspects of Preksha meditation, Jainism and Ahimsa. She is currently stationed in Houston, where she is involved in conducting Preksha meditation and other Jain spiritual activities.



## Dhruvil Purohit

Since as far back as Dhruvil Purohit can remember, he wanted to live the life of a secret agent. The concept of having a specific purpose, doing whatever it takes to make it happen, and living for a larger vision, were qualities that absolutely thrilled him. Fortunately Purohit found out that working for the FBI, CIA or KGB isn't the only way to truly live these concepts on a daily basis. From his experience, Purohit says, "Following the path of the Jina is far more exciting and fulfilling".

Professionally, Dhruvil meets is the founding principal of Dharmaboost. Dharmaboost is a nationally recognized firm optimizing strategies for companies using commerce as a powerful catalyst for social change. He is an avid public speaker on topics such as Jainism, health/vitality, entrepreneurship, and personal development. He has held positions on the YJA Executive Board, JAINA Media Committee, and other Jain related organizations.

Dhruvil is currently creating a non-profit to teach youth about entrepreneurship. Dhruvil's mission: "To heighten the human experience for myself & others by consistently living the life of a compassionate, fun loving, juiced, do what ever it takes, urban monk."

## Ocean Robbins

Ocean Robbins is the founder of Youth for Environmental Sanity (YES!). At ages 14 and 15, Ocean facilitated the environmental portion of two international youth summits in Moscow and another in Washington, DC. He met with Mrs. Gorbachev and numerous Ambassadors and US Senators to discuss environmental concerns. At 15, Ocean co-founded the Creating Our Future environmental speaking tour, during which he and three other participants spoke in person to more than 30,000 students, presented for 2,000 people at the United Nations, and opened for the Jerry Garcia band in San Francisco. He has personally facilitated camps and workshops in Singapore, Costa Rica, Russia, Finland, Canada, the Netherlands, India, and across the USA. Ocean is co-author of Choices For Our Future: A Generation Rising For Life On Earth, and speaks widely, spreading a message of hope and inspiration to conferences, companies and organizations.

## Amar Salgia

Amar Salgia has been involved with YJA and the Jain community for most of his life. Amar helped plan the first ever YJA Convention as well as subsequent conventions. His book "**Pure Freedom: The Jain Way of Self Reliance**" was, in his words, "written for non-Jain Americans of all races and religious backgrounds." His message for the young Jain community: "Jainism is not an ethnic or hereditary religion, and there's no such thing as someone who's 'born Jain'. We may each become Jains by adopting a spiritual outlook toward all living beings, and by following Jain conduct to the best of our abilities. It's an eternal philosophy that addresses all races and all ethnic groups."

## Dr. Tara Sethia

Tara Sethia was born in Jaipur, India. Her upbringing instilled a deep sense of curiosity to learn more about Jain tradition, literature and history. She received a B.A. (Honors) and M.A. in History from Rajasthan University, India and received her PhD in History from UCLA.

Dr. Sethia is currently a professor of History at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and is the Director of the newly established Ahimsa Center focusing on nonviolence in thought and action. During her tenure at the University, Dr. Sethia created a program in Indian and Women's History. Recently, she has developed a new course, Nonviolence in the Modern World.

Her research and publications focus primarily on India and include articles that address issues pertaining to the teaching of India and China. She has also published an article, "Mahavira and Jainism in Indian History Textbooks." She is editor of *Ahimsa, Anekanta and Jainism*.

## Ami Shah

Ami Shah is a 25-year old mechanical engineer working for Raytheon Space & Airborne Systems in Los Angeles, CA. Growing up, she was an active youth member of the Jain Society of Greater Detroit and she recently served on the YJA board as Director of Education for the 2002-03 year. As a YJA/JAINA convention "veteran" and first-time speaker, she hopes to use a fresh, interesting approach to teach youth practical ways to incorporate Jain principles in their daily life.

## Ankit A. Shah

Ankit Shah watches "One Tree Hill" on the WB network. As exciting as the trials and tribulations of these artificial characters may be, the real reason he tunes in is to hear the opening words of the theme song. "I don't want to be anything other than what I've been trying to be lately," has become the key concept and focus of Mr. Shah's daily Mantra. He encourages others to follow this philosophy and finds Jainism to be an effective tool to encourage one's individual journey on their life path. Mr. Shah is excited to be sharing and receiving knowledge at YJA Convention 2004 and hopes to foster dynamic vision shifts and a radical "Change Of Thought."

Academically, Mr. Shah is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania with a dual degree in Electrical/Systems Engineering and Economics and a minor in Mathematics. He is currently pursuing a PhD in Operations Research. Mr. Shah is the founding director of the non-profit organization *Change Of Thought*. This organization uses digital interactive media design and learning tools to bring important messages to the world. He has held positions on the New Jersey Convention Committee, the Jain Center of New Jersey. He believes that teaching youth about the principles of respect and compassion is the most vital lesson teachable and he strives to live his life in deference to this mission.

## Dr. Atul K. Shah

Dr. Atul K. Shah is a qualified Chartered Accountant with a PhD from London School of Economics. He has taught and researched on Business Ethics at the Universities of Bristol, Maryland and Essex. He founded a global youth movement called 'Young Jains' which has affiliations in North America, East Africa, the UK and Australia. He also founded an international magazine called 'Jain Spirit' ([www.jainspirit.com](http://www.jainspirit.com)) of whom he is the Executive Editor.

## Chintan Shah

Chintan Shah recently graduated from the University of WI - Madison. He was born and raised in a suburb of Milwaukee, WI in a close-knit Jain community. He worked closely with the Jain Religion Center of Wisconsin adults and youth during their Pratishta Mahotsav celebration in May of 2001. Chintan joined the YJA Executive Board in 2000 as the Midwest Regional Coordinator. A year later he became Co-Chair of YJA and hosted the 2002 YJA Convention in New Jersey. Chintan is currently a member of the YJA Board of Trustees.

## Jugna Shah

Jugna Shah has a Masters in Public Health Policy and Administration with a concentration in health economics and maternal/child health from the University of Michigan. Four years ago, she started her own health care consulting firm that focuses on domestic and international health care policy and reform work. Domestically, she spends her time helping hospitals understand and implement governmental health care regulations. Internationally she works to help foreign governments reform their health care financing systems. She has worked in Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Romania, and Albania. Jugna has given presentations at YJA, YJP, and JAINA.

## Kamal Shah

Kamal Shah attended the University of Wisconsin, School of Business and earned an MBA with a major in Marketing and Finance. Upon graduation he has followed a career in health insurance for over 28 years. He has served as the VP of marketing for major insurance companies such as Blue Cross Shield, Metropolitan Life and United Health Care, before starting his own agency in 1992.

"Jainism is integral part of my life. Fifteen years ago, a surprise visit from two Samnijiis from Jain Vishva Bharti rekindled the desire to further my studies about Jainism. The tragic death of a Jain boy in an accident exposed the value of Jain religion in life and death around this same time. This motivated me to do all I could to keep Jain religious philosophy active in America. I took an active role in unifying our small Jain community in Wisconsin and built our first Jain temple in 2001. My deep desire is to see the religion remain an integral part of life for many generations to come."

## Manish Shah

Manish Shah is 25 years of age and has been living in San Francisco for the past two years. She is currently attending Boston University, studying finance. She is pursuing an opportunity to work for a youth program through Americorps.

Since completing her service with Americorps, Mansi has been working for a small insurance brokerage firm. In the future, she would love the opportunity to work abroad and experience a different perspective.

Her goal for the "Tough Decisions" workshop is to have people share their experiences and discuss some of the difficult choices they have made in their lives. For Mansi, Jainism is a crutch to lean on for support when she's not sure about something in her life. Jainism doesn't provide an answer, but rather a set of principles to guide one forward. The challenging aspect occurs when we apply the principles of Jainism to our everyday decisions.

Religion should be simple; knowing what is right and wrong. "I believe that a simple and unassuming manner of life is best for everyone, best both for the body and the mind". -- Albert Einstein

## Neha Shah

Neha Shah is currently a freshman at Rutgers University in New Jersey. Born and raised in NJ, Neha has been an active leader in the Jain youth community, serving as President of the Satya~the Jain Youth group at the Jain Center of New Jersey. During YJA Convention 2002 in New Jersey, Neha received the special honor of Local Representative of the Year from the YJA Executive Board. Her dedication and motivation toward Jainism has been evident in her local and national participation and leadership of events and activities.

## Dr. Pravin K. Shah

Pravin K. Shah is a founding member of the Jain Study Center of North Carolina and an Executive Committee Member of JAINA. He is a chairperson of the JAINA Education Committee and an advisor to YJA and YJP youth organizations. He is an Electrical Engineer, retired from IBM and lives in Raleigh North Carolina. He is a Jain scholar and activist against animal cruelty. He is also a member of the Harvard University Pluralism Project Advisory Council and director of Wake County Interfaith organization. He has published several articles and books on Jain philosophy, cruelty to animals, and comparative religions. One of his objectives is to prepare Jain educational material in English for youths and adults of the Jain community at large. He offers two-day interactive workshops on various aspects of Jainism to prepare Jain Pāthashālā teachers and educate the community. The education committee section of the JAINA website ([www.jaina.org](http://www.jaina.org)) contains significant articles he has written on Jainism.

**Rina Shah**

Rina Shah is a famous fashion designer, whose bag and footwear store is situated in Colaba, Mumbai. Her store, "Rinaldi" was launched in 1997 and has become one of the most exclusive stores in Mumbai, with all of the products being designed solely by her. She began her career with a course in window dressing and then fell in love with the fashion industry. Prior to opening her own store, she worked with Donna Karan in the DKNY studio for accessory design.

Although Rina now resides in New York, she remains a well-respected designer in India. Her clientele has included the likes of, "Urmila Matondkar, Sonali Bendre, Salman Khan, Shahrukh Khan, Saif Ali Khan, and Jackie Shroff."

Rina is a key example of someone who has achieved success while balancing her Jain values. A firm believer in non-cruelty to animals, and an active member of PETA – she has created all of her designs without the use of leather. She will inspire the convention attendees with her thoughts on fashion and animal cruelty in relation to Jainism.

**Ronak M. Shah**

Ronak M. Shah was born in raised in Tulsa, OK. He was an active LR and member of his society, at a young age - organizing two regional conferences in conjunction with the Dallas youth. Ronak then moved his efforts cross country, where he started the first ever Jain group at New York University, JSA. He recruited almost 50 people to attend their events, the most popular being Holi. Ronak went on to become the South Regional Coordinator, and Co-Chair of YJA where he helped run YJA Convention 2002 in NJ. This past May, he graduated from NYU Stern with a degree in Finance and International Business. Ronak will start working with Deloitte Consulting this August. Ronak will be hosting the session on how to incorporate Jainism into your everyday lives at a young age.

**Shrenik Shah**

A member of the Jain Center of Greater Boston, Shrenik Shah, age 24, attended the University of Chicago, graduating with bachelor's degrees in Biology and Environmental Studies in the spring of 2002. He now works at an environmental consulting firm, assisting EPA in determining national drinking water regulations. Interested in Jain philosophy from a young age, Shrenik has given various presentations at past JAINA and YJA conventions. In his free time, Shrenik enjoys composing and playing music, acting, reading, rock climbing, and running.

## Subir B. Shah

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Subir B. Shah grew up in Farmington Hills, MI. At an early age, he became an active part of the local Jain temple. He served four years on the youth group, JOY, concluding with a term as President. Subir's continuous support to the Midwest Region proved strong as he served as a local representative for over five years. He currently attends Michigan State University, where he is enrolled in the eight year Medical School program. He enjoys spending his time twirling dandhia's as a member of MSU's Raas Team and he is notorious for his amazing stavan voice. Subir will be conducting an interactive session about temple politics in order to stimulate thought amongst attendees.

## Suchita S. Shah

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Suchita S. Shah was born and raised in the suburbs of Detroit, MI. At a young age, she became heavily involved with the local Jain Youth group, JOY, serving three years on board. During this term, she, along with a five person advisory team, organized the first ever Midwest Convention for YJA. She then moved on to serve as Midwest Regional Coordinator for YJA, followed by Co-Chair this past year. She is currently a senior at the University of Michigan studying chemical engineering and enjoys spending her time working with other South Asians on campus to see that their voice is heard. She will be conducting an interactive session entitled Temple Politics in order to convey the messages she has learned through her many years of Jain involvement.

## Nirav Sheth

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Currently, Nirav is a student at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. completing his degree in Electrical Engineering while working at an innovating IP Law Firm. Nirav has currently jumped into entrepreneurship with his best friend and partner in life Dhruvil Purohit to develop strong, socioeconomic, and eco-effective businesses around the nation. Along with professional development, Nirav seeks and works towards personal fulfillment by creating and maintaining exceptional relationships with his friends and family. He is taking his first steps towards huge shifts in his life in search of total fulfillment, and he says, "These shifts are going to be larger and very frequent" in the upcoming years. By asking better questions, Nirav views his life in the future to be the very best. When asked "How are you doing Nirav?" he is sure to reply, "I am enjoying the best day ever!"

## Sadhvi Shilapiji

A multi-faceted personality, Sadhvi Shri Shilapiji is a young Jain Sadhvi with outstanding qualities. Her unique approach to understand and present religion has touched many lives. She is multi-lingual and a great inspirer and motivator to young people across the world.

Sadhvi Shri Shilapiji comes from Veerayatan, a Jain socio-religious institution dedicated to helping humanity. The institute has motivated many people to lead a value-oriented life.

Shri Shilapiji was truly inspired when she first visited the Veerayatan institution in 1986. Her first meeting with Acharya (head nun) Shri Chandanji was the turning point as she decided to make Veerayatan her new home. The next five years were a remarkable story of service and sacrifice, of devotion and dedication, of master-disciple relationship. She chose to work from within: through the humility of heart, the silence of the soul-actively involving herself in social and medical welfare, rural development projects and the promotion of Jainism not only as a religion but also its place in the promotion of human welfare.

Shri Shilapiji finally decided to take Diksha (renunciation) in 1991 at the young age of 26. She was able to undertake an in-depth study of Jain scriptures during two periods of silence, one for six months in 1991, and the other for four months in 1993. Through her innovative ideas, and despite resistance from traditionalists, she made a significant contribution to the concept of 'practical modern Jainism'. She also traveled extensively in India for the promotion of non-violence, peace and harmony. She joined King's College in London in 1995 where, a year later, she completed a master's degree with distinction in Comparative Indian Religions. She is presently undertaking a Ph.D. in Compassionate Aspect of Jainism at King's college in London.

Sadhvi Shri Shilapiji's stay in the United Kingdom has had a tremendous impact on the daily lives of thousands of Jain families residing there. She has given birth to faith in the local Jain community, where after years of spiritual apathy, her presence has inspired an awakening and the beginning of a new era. In a short space of time, she has successfully established an International School of Learning Jainism (Shri Chandana Vidyapeeth), with centers in North and South London and in Nairobi and Thika in Kenya. Recently she started two new centers in Australia, and has had many invitations from different countries to support her work.

## Dr. Kim Skoog

Kim Skoog is a member of the philosophy program at the University of Guam and currently is Chair of the Division of Humanistic Studies (a multidisciplinary unit focusing on the Human Prospect). He received his Ph.D. from the University of Hawaii in Comparative Philosophy, his M.A. from the University of Washington, and his B.A. from the University of Minnesota. He has presented and published numerous articles both in Asia and the United States. His most recent publication is a chapter in the book *Living Liberation in Hindu Thought* (SUNY).

## Bhupendra Shivji Soneji

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Bhupendra Shivji Soneji, founding director of Sarathi Yoga Foundation, received extensive yoga training early in life from his father as well as through the teachings of Swami Satyananda Saraswati of the Bihar School of Yoga in India.

Mr. Soneji, a civil engineer by profession, with a Masters degree in engineering, has been teaching yoga and meditation for more than 30 years. In 1998, he founded the Sarathi Yoga Foundation as a means to promote yogic teaching and to help people discover the beauty of yoga and the joy of practicing inner silence.

Soneji teaches weekly yoga classes in Irvine, California, and frequently travels to major cities throughout the United States and Canada as guest speaker. He also conducts several yoga camps and meditation retreats in the LA area each year. Always linking ancient postures with modern science, Soneji teaches how yoga can be applied to daily activities without strenuous effort, and inspires audiences to participate in order to achieve longer-lasting results.

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## Substance Seven

We are Substance Seven, a Jain band with members hailing from Boston and Chicago. All four members of the band have been participating in YJA and JAINA conventions for over ten years. Just a few of the ways in which they've participated include giving presentations on the Kalpa Sutra and Tattvartha Sutra, moderating the Jain Academic Bowl, giving instruction on how to perform puja and samayik, writing and performing in numerous plays, playing music, etc. They hope to rekindle enthusiasm about Jain devotional music amongst other Jains of the youth generation.

The members of Substance Seven: Shardule Shah plays violin and sings backing vocals. He will enter his sophomore year at Case Western Reserve University this fall, where he is majoring in biochemistry. Archit Shah plays guitar and keyboards and sings backing vocals. He has a BS and MS in Computer Science from MIT and currently works as a programmer. Alap Shah plays guitar and bass guitar and sings backing vocals as well. He will be entering University of Illinois Medical School this fall. Shrenik Shah plays the guitar, bass guitar, keyboards, and sings lead vocals. He is currently an elementary school music teacher.

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## Dr. Anne Vallely

Anne Vallely, PhD teaches at the University of Ottawa. Her research interests are largely concerned with the ethical and cultural aspects of the Jain tradition, both within and outside of India. She is particularly interested in issues relating to ethics, gender, and human-nature relationships. Among her recent publications is the book: Guardians of the Transcendent: An Ethnography of a Jain Ascetic Community (University of Toronto Press).



## Tanvi Vyas

Tanvi Vyas is currently an undergraduate student at UCLA, studying Mathematics and Business Economics. She is originally from Walnut, CA and has actively attended the Jain Temple in Buena Park, CA since she was twelve. In her session, she hopes to convey the message that Jainism is a religion that can be actively practiced in everything one does. Jainism can become such a comfortable part of your lifestyle that when you are doing something you do not think "I am doing this because I'm Jain," but rather feel, "I am doing this because this is the right thing to do."

## Kristi Wiley

Kristi L. Wiley is a graduate student in the Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. She is currently writing her Ph.D. dissertation entitled Aghatiya Karma: Agents of Embodiment in Jainism. She is the recipient of a Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (1997-98).

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Shah	Kavisha	Tulsa	OK	74105	USA	918-745-0074	kavi528@hotmail.com	05/28/87	F
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Shah	Kevin	Diamond Bar	CA	91765	USA	909-861-4428	ksshah@ucsd.edu	03/21/85	M
Shah	Kevin	Pembroke Pines	FL	33027	USA	954-432-5316	kevshahbball@yahoo.com	03/15/89	M
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Shah	Komal	Jersey City	NJ	07307	USA	201-798-4514	komalshah48@yahoo.com	05/25/84	F
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Last	First	City	State	Zip Code	Country	Phone Number	Email Address	Birthdate M/F
Sheth	Nirav	Newark	DE	19713	USA	302-981-6764	niravs@gwu.edu	09/19/84 M
Sheth	Nisha	Spring Valley	IL	61362	USA	815-663-0168	nishu_247@yahoo.com	01/24/90 F
Sheth	Reema	Spring Valley	IL	61362	USA	815-663-0168	nisha224477@yahoo.com	01/24/89 F
Sheth	Sheetal	Bayside	NY	11364	USA	917-306-9973	sheetal@nyu.edu	07/18/85 F
Sheth	Sheila	Ann Arbor	M	48104	USA	734-945-9055	snsheth@umich.edu	11/09/82 F
Sheth	Sonal	La Palma	CA	90623	USA	714-521-4072	twixstyx@aol.com	12/07/84 F
Shroff	Mili	San Jose	CA	95120	USA	408-927-8080	mili_shroff@hotmail.com	08/02/82 F
Singavi	Archana	Joliet	IL	60431	USA	815-254-9305	starry_night_513@yahoo.com	05/13/88 F
Singhvi	Shikha	Roslyn	NY	11576	USA	516-621-4760	shikha.singhvi@columbia.edu	09/05/84 F
Sipani	Sanjana	Duluth	GA	30097	USA	678-417-6998	sanjana7215@hotmail.com	07/21/88 F
Sodhia	Rohit	Edison	NJ	08820	USA	908-412-9010	SciRS8886@yahoo.com	08/08/86 M
Soni	Nick	San Diego	CA	92127	USA	858-487-2784	nsuperman86@san.rr.com	06/06/86 M
Stein	Jonathan	Cupertino	CA	95014	USA	408-255-7587	bpapres@yahoo.com	07/17/83 M
Stein	Kevin	Cupertino	CA	95014	USA	408-255-7587	tstein@bpaconsultants.com	06/18/85 M
Talati	Dipa	Bellerose	NY	11426	USA	718-347-7042	dipa.talati@yja.org	07/03/83 F
Talsania	Vinit	Basking Ridge	NJ	07920	USA	908-306-1406	vinitt@aol.com	11/21/83 M
Tamboli	Zeel	Westfield	NJ	07090	USA	908-233-5355	jmtamboli@att.net	02/18/80 F
Tolia	Sunishi	Edison	NJ	08820	USA	908-561-1629	plnkpanther16@hotmail.com	10/12/88 F
Tolia	Vishal	Searingtown	NY	11507	USA	516-484-2027	vish89@optonline.net	07/15/89 M
Trivedi	Neheet	San Francisco	CA	94117	USA	415-986-0521	neheet@yahoo.com	01/31/81 M
Vagadia	Neepe	Foxborough	MA	02035	USA	508-543-0097	N3vagadia@hotmail.com	12/26/85 F
Vakharia	Noopur	Hartselle	AL	35640	USA	256-751-0535	NoopurV029@yahoo.com	04/29/86 F
Vakharia	Sonali	Rochester	M	48306	USA	248-475-0609	gugugirl2005@yahoo.com	05/29/88 F
Vasa	Ankit	Cypress	CA	90630	USA	714-496-9816	ajvasa007@aol.com	10/14/85 M
Vasa	Payal	Cypress	CA	90630	USA	714-995-1660	Cutiepv@aol.com	12/30/81 F
Vasa	Sonali	Cerritos	CA	90703	USA	562-860-7273	xtigger2006x@aol.com	07/07/88 F
Vasa	Tanvi	Lakewood	CA	90715	USA	562-468-1423	tanvivas@yahoo.com	01/19/90 F
Vira	Amit	Homewood	IL	60430	USA	708-799-8472	amitvira12@hotmail.com	03/12/88 M
Vitha	Sadhna	Searingtown	NY	11507	USA	516-484-4255	shv4842@aol.com	01/15/90 F
Vora	Aditya	Kings Park	NY	11754	USA	631-269-1167	vora124@hotmail.com	12/04/86 M
Vora	Ami	Concord	CA	94521	USA	925-682-5890	asvora@ucdavis.edu	10/15/85 F
Vora	Ami	Oak Brook	IL	60523	USA	630-789-2060	lilvora@yahoo.com	10/02/86 F
Vora	Anisha	Syosset	NY	11791	USA	516-921-8648	ajit129117@aol.com	09/20/85 F
Vora	Chirag	Seal Beach	CA	90740	USA	562-596-2683	cvora@ucsd.edu	02/27/85 M
Vora	Jigar	Westborough	MA	01581	USA	508-366-2223	jvora@andrew.cmu.edu	09/25/85 M
Vora	Khushbu	Westborough	MA	01581	USA	508-366-2223	khushbu_vora@hotmail.com	07/19/89 F
Vora	Mona	San Diego	CA	92127	USA	858-676-1150	heavenlybliss100@hotmail.com	11/30/83 F
Vora	Neal	San Jose	CA	95120	USA	408-833-4706	nealvora@stanford.edu	06/12/83 M
Vora	Neel	Northborough	MA	01532	USA	508-393-2490	neelcv@hotmail.com	07/28/88 M
Vora	Nirali	Oak Brook	IL	60523	USA	630-789-2060	Nilu220@aol.com	02/20/83 F
Vora	Nisha	London	LND	N12 8EU	UK	208-446-0546	nishvora@hotmail.com	10/05/80 F
Vora	Raj	San Diego	CA	92127	USA	858-676-1150	popsicleboy00@hotmail.com	03/07/86 M
Vora	Ronak	Yorba Linda	CA	92887	USA	714-692-1187	nflnbaguru@sbcglobal.net	12/12/85 M
Vora	Roshni	Yorba Linda	CA	92887	USA	714-692-1187	roshni209@sbcglobal.net	02/09/87 F
Vora	Rupa	Yorba Linda	CA	92887	USA	714-692-1187	rupa.vora@haasalum.berkeley.edu	04/22/81 F
Vora	Rupal	Clive	IA	50325	USA	515-276-2148	rupal_vora@yahoo.com	03/01/84 F
Vora	Rushabh	Los Angeles	CA	90005	USA	323-936-1836	rvora@usc.edu	06/10/85 M
Vora	Shailey	Fremont	CA	94539	USA	510-623-2324	stylinmonkey17@yahoo.com	07/17/88 F
Vora	Sunit	Fremont	CA	94539	USA	510-623-2324	z_dawg_7@yahoo.com	09/07/89 M
Vora	Urmi	Harrison	NJ	07029	USA	973-497-7488	uvora@deloitte.com	09/13/79 F
Vyas	Tanvi	Walnut	CA	91789	USA	310-208-8872	tanvi155@yahoo.com	03/30/83 F
Zaveri	Kesha	San Jose	CA	95120	USA	408-323-5240	xxgujuangel4uxx@sbcglobal.net	03/08/87 F
Zaveri	Kiran	Bellrose	SYD	02085	Australia	29-975-2849	rekazaveri@hotmail.com	12/08/87 M

## Additional Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

# Continuing the tradition of excellence ...

1994 – Chicago, IL

1996 – San Francisco, CA

1998 – Houston, TX

2000 – Los Angeles, CA

2002 – Mahwah, NJ

2004 – Bay Area, CA

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