



# JAIN

## SOCIETY OF METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON

A NON-PROFIT TAX-EXEMPT RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION, ID # 54-1139623

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NO1-3 May, 2001

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## President's Message

Jai Jinendra.

Thanks to all who worked very hard to make our Mahavir Jayanti program a grand success. Members' participation was very good. I would like to see similar participation in all programs. Our younger generation handled the program very well. I would like to see more participation by our younger generation, the future pillars of our Society. All children are encouraged to take part in the various programs arranged by our Youth Committee as detailed under the column on Youth Corner.

Thanks to all the sponsors of the Swami Vatsalya Bhojan during Mahavir Jayanti program. We are now looking for sponsors for the Swami Vatsalya Bhojan during Paryushan on August 18. The total expenses are less than \$4000. We will need 8 sponsors each pledging \$501, or more sponsors if the pledge is lower than \$501. Members are encouraged to become a sponsor for the Swami Vatsalya Bhojan during Paryushan. Interested members are requested to call me.

We plan to start our web site [www.jsmw.org](http://www.jsmw.org) by May 20. Please log on to it and provide your comments.

Our Members' Directory is 5 years old. We plan to publish a new one this year. Please provide your details (your address, phone number, children's names and date of birth) by e-mail to [jsmw@mail.com](mailto:jsmw@mail.com).

Looking forward to full support and participation by all members.

Kanta Dharamsi

## Jain Prayer in the US Congress and Senate on Tuesday May 22

We have been successful in arranging recital of Jain prayer in both the US Congress and US Senate on Tuesday, May 22, 2001. The US Congress and Senate sessions on May 22 will start with our Jain prayer in English. Gurudev Shree Chitrabhanu has been requested to recite the prayer. All members are welcome to attend this important event at the capital building. All of us can observe this event from the visitors' galleries of the Congress and Senate. Admission to the visitors' gallery requires a pass. Members can easily procure the pass by contacting their congressman and senator. They can also stop by at the office of the congressman/senator in the capital building and receive the pass on that day. Since all visitors are required to be seated in the gallery before the starting of the session, and since every one has to go through a security check, come early (at least an hour before the starting time of the session, or more if you have to procure a pass on that day) to avoid disappointment. Note that it is very difficult to find a parking place near the capital building. It will be wise to come by metro-rail to the South Capital station.

The congress session generally starts around 9:30 AM, and the senate session starts around 2 PM. However, these sessions can be delayed or even postponed, depending on the session on the previous

day. The expected starting time of these sessions will be known only after 8:00 pm on Monday, May 21. We will leave a message stating the expected starting times of these sessions on the answering machine at our Jain Center phone (301-236-4466). We will also put the message on our web (www.JSMW.org). Also, you can go to the websites www.house.gov and www.senate.gov to check on the sessions.

JAINA presidents and other Jain leaders have been invited to this event. We will hold a reception for them at the Jain Center on Monday evening. On Tuesday, we plan to assemble at the office of Congressman Pallone (our sponsor for the prayer) at around 8:30 AM (1.5 hour before the session). His office is located in room 420 in the Cannon House Office Building at the crossing of the First and C streets, SE, Washington, DC. The building is across from South Capitol Metro Station. His staff will escort us to the Capitol House gallery in the capital building. After the prayer in the congress, a reception is planned in the office of Congressman Pallone by invitation. If you plan to attend this reception, **please call** Manoj/Kanta Dharamsi at 703-620-9837 or Sushil/Asha Jain at 301-670-0519 before Friday, May 18. A tour of the Capitol Building has been arranged for our group from 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm. You are most welcome to join it. For the Senate prayer, we will all assemble at the rotunda of the capital building at 1:30 PM (the tour will end there). Senate staff will escort us to the Senate gallery to witness the prayer in the Senate. A meeting of JAINA presidents with Senator Hillary Clinton is planned at 3:30 PM.

For further details, please call Manoj Dharamsi at 703-620-9837, or Sushil Jain at 301-670-0519.

## 2600<sup>th</sup> Mahavir Jayanti Celebration in 2001

The JAINA Mahavir Memorial Committee established to celebrate 2600<sup>th</sup> Janma Kalyanak of Lord Mahavir in 2001 under the chairmanship of Dr. Manoj Dharamsi has published a colored 3-fold leaflet on Jainism. A xerox copy of this leaflet is attached herewith. This leaflet provides a short summary of Jainism and Jain activities in North

America. Its main purpose is to increase awareness of Jainism and its great principles to the general public in North America by distributing it to various libraries, media, schools, etc. If you wish to help in this noble cause of increasing awareness of Jainism, please contact Manoj Dharamsi at 703-620-9837.

## Upcoming Events

### Meditation Session/Pravachan by Samniji on Saturday, June 16

A program consisting of a meditation session and discourses by Samani **Mangal Prajnaji** and Samani **Vineet Prajnaji** will be held at the Jain Center on Saturday June 16 from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM and from 2:30 PM to 5:00 PM.

Samani Mangal Prajnaji has M.A. in Jainology and Comparative Philosophy and Religion, and is currently doing her Ph.D. in Philosophical Concepts of Jain Agamas. She has written 2 books and has more than 50 publications on Jain religion and philosophy. She is an Associate Professor in the Jainology Department at Jain Vishwa Bharati in India. For the past 18 years she has been teaching the science of living, Preksha meditation and Jainology. Samani Vineet Prajnaji has M. Sc. in Biology and also has been teaching the science of living, meditation, and Jainology for the past 12 years.

Please do not miss this opportunity to hear such scholars and learn meditation. Samnijis will be with us until June 21. If members are interested, we can continue their meditation sessions during weekday evenings.

### Pravachan by Dr. Bharill June 25 – July 1

Dr. Hukamchandji Bharill's Pravachan will be held at the Jain Center from June 25 to July 1.

Weekdays: 8:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Weekend: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon, and  
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For further details, please contact Mr. Rajni Gosalia at 301-464-5947.

## Mahavir Jayanti

**M**ahavir Jayanti was celebrated on Sunday, April 8, 2001 with a stage program followed by Swami Vatsalya Bhojan. The stage program presented by our youngsters consisted of prayer songs, prayer dances, Garba and skits. All the participants were presented with a plaque sponsored by Nenbai Momaiya and her daughter (our president) Kanta Dharamsi. Swami Vatsalya Bhojan was sponsored by Dilip & Aruna Arwindekar, Pravin & Jyotsna Gohel, Arvind & Nayana Mehta, Sudhir & Hemali Mehta, Deepak & Sunila Merchant, Prakash & Nisha Parekh, Ajit & Shilpa Shah, Mahendra & Jyoti Shah, Navin Shah, Ravat & Kusum Surana, Manchand & Nirmala Maloo and Chandrakant & Kumud Shah. About 600 people attended the program.

## Recognition Awards

**D**uring the Mahavir Jayanti program, two of our active members were recognized and presented the recognition plaques: Tejas Doshi for his outstanding contribution as Youth Corodinator and in teaching Jainism to our children and Ranjan Shah for her outstanding contribution in teaching Jainism to our children.

Congratulations to Tejas and Ranjan.

## Pooja Programs

**T**hanks to Pooja Committee for performing Pooja at members' residences and at the Jain center.

Members who wish to perform Pooja are requested to contact Mrs. Jyoti Doshi at 301-670-6844.

## Temple Open on Sundays 11 am to 2 pm

**M**r. Chandubhai Sanghvi has kindly agreed to keep the Jain center open from 11 AM to 2 PM every Sunday. If you wish to volunteer to keep the Center open on other times, please contact any member of the Executive Committee.

## Youth Corner

**S**everal youth attended a planning session on April 29, 2001. Following are the two programs planned for the month of June.

### June 2 – Bowling and Movie:

We will meet at the Jain temple at 1:00 p.m. The following is the itinerary for the day:

- Meeting other Jain Youth and socializing
- Watching "American Desi" – a movie about the assimilation of Indians into the American culture.
- Dinner of pizza and pasta.
- Bowling in the evening

While having dinner, we will discuss assimilation of Indians into the American culture. To this regard some of the topics that we want to discuss are:

- \* The pressures of living up to the Model Minority image, in terms of education and career expectations
- \* The pressures of following our culture while trying to accommodate to the American culture.

### June 23 – Potluck Picnic

Our next event will be a trip to DC for a potluck lunch and discussion. We will meet at the Mall Entrance of the Smithsonian Metro station at 12:00 Noon for the following:

- Meet other Jain Youth and socialize
  - Have a potluck picnic near the tidal basin and cherry blossoms
  - Discuss 'Hardline Hypocrisy' over lunch; everyone will get a chance to voice his or her opinion.
  - Afterwards, we can go paddle boating or take a walk around the basin. Bring frisbees, soccer balls, footballs, and other items to play with on the mall.
- If interested in joining, please send an e-mail to nisha\_jain@hotmail.com.

### Upcoming Events:

- July 21: Trip to Kings Dominion
- August 3-5: Jain Camp at the Jain temple with Mr. Pravin Shah.

Nisha Jain  
Youth Coordinator

## List of Donors (\$ 25 and above) Jan.31, to May 08, 2001

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### Life Members

Jogani, Chandrakant/Damayanti	151
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### Other Donations

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Mehta, Kanti & Florentine	31
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Merchant, Deepak & Sunila	852
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Sanghvi, Vasantiben	402
Shah Ashok & Mina	31
Shah, Ajit & Shilpa	501
Shah, Chandrakant & Kumud	251
Shah, Jayant & Mrudula	72
Shah, Mahendra & Jyoti	500
Shah, Navin C.	501
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Shah, Rajiv & Sujaini	151
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Surana, Rawat & Kusum	501
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Shah, Ashok & Pallavi	101
Shah, Bhadra & Chandralekha	101
Shah, Devendra & Jayshree	200
Shah, Dhiraj & Nalini	1001
Shah, Hasmukh & Sudha	1309
Shah, Jayant & Mrudula	51
Shah, Kamlesh & Chandrika	75
Shah, Mahendra & Bharati	200
Shah, Manu & Inaxi	241
Shah, Narendra & Anila	100
Shah, Paresh & Shilpa	250
Shah, Sanjay & Sangeeta	100
Sharma, Anil & Annu	1000
Sheth, Yogen & Rupa	101
Simonenko, Vladimir & Ludmila	25
The Language Doctors	100
Vora, Manish & Nirmala	25
Zafar, Mohammed & Habiba	100

## Children's Corner

Article By Jain Sunday School Children

### THE AMAZING JAIN HISTORY

The meaning of the word "Jain" means anyone who has conquered "inner" enemies like anger, hatred, ego, etc. The religion of Jainism is one of the oldest in the world. The last (twenty fourth) Tirthankar, Mahavir organized and re-preached this religion and earned the name of "Jina" which means "conqueror of inner enemies". The religion became known as "Jainism". The Jains and the Buddhists both ignored the Hindu beliefs in rituals and this itself was one of the main reasons that Jainism and Buddhism came into being. Many people were dissatisfied with some aspects of the Hindu religion including the complex rituals and the caste system. The Jain Tirthankars or founders preached about salvation through rational knowledge of the universe through severe mysticism and asceticism, and claimed that there is no very high supreme being other than the self and that, the self is the soul itself. Lord Mahavir, after staying in meditation for 12 years, preached and gave lectures on this faith for the remaining thirty years and then at the end of his life on earth at age 70, he became a Siddha and attained Moksha which is total salvation and release from the birth and death. Other very famous Tirthankars are Adinath (1st), Shantinath (16th), Neminath (22nd), and Parshwanath (23rd). Nine of Mahavir's disciples attained Moksha during His lifetime, while the other two, Gautam Swami and Sudharma Swami attained Moksha after lord Mahavir. Jambu Swami, a disciple of Sudharma Swami was the last person to become an Arihant and to gain perfect knowledge in the present half of the time cycles. Knowledge of the "Dharma", or path to liberation from this world also started declining slowly. The Agams or Holy Scriptures of Lord Mahavir were the key forms of his teachings. 150 years after Lord Mahavir attained Moksha, there was a big drought for twelve years in northern and eastern India where most Jains and Jain monks lived. Because of this, some Jain monks migrated in large groups to southern India with their leader Bhadrabahu Swami. After the drought was over, many of these monks came back to northern and eastern India. These monks found out that many

groups of Jain monks who had stayed in the north during the drought were not completely following the orally taught rules of the Jainism that governed the life of monks. One of the main alleged flaws was that the northern monks wore white clothes instead of wearing no clothes and the monks from the south believed that this was wrong. All these differences in the customs of Jain monks were the cause that forced a truly written compilation of the twelve Agams. A council of many monks from both the north and the south was held in the city of Pataliputra (north-east India). But Bhadrabahu Swami who was the only monk to know all twelve Agams completely and hundred percent perfectly could not be present at this meeting for some reason. The monks who still lived in southern India (and also many of the southern monks who migrated back to north) did not agree with this compilation of the other monks and so, the first major split within Jainism occurred. The monks of the south and some of their previous companions who went to the north, along with their lay followers considered themselves to be following all Jain guidelines correctly. These monks wore no clothes at all and followed a few other customs (along with their lay followers) that were not followed by other Jains. These Jain monks and lay people became known as the Digambar. The rest of the Jain monks wore white clothes and their lay people were lax in matters of ritual. These were called Shwetambar. The word "Digambar" means "empty clad" or naked, while "Shwetambar" means "clad". An important difference with these two groups other than the appearance of their monks is that Digambar do not perform Poojas and few other rituals while the Shwetambar do perform Poojas and complex rituals. Over the centuries, Jainism spread from eastern to western India and was followed by many people and kings in some states and kingdoms in India. But with the rise of Hindu orthodoxy in the Middle Ages, a number of Jain followers dropped rapidly and Jainism declined as a major religion in India..

Sachin Vaywala

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** Sachin, son of Nayan & Kashmira Vaywala, is a graduate of Jain Sunday School.

# Upcoming Events for 2001

Saturday, June 16: .....Meditation Session/Pravachan by Samnji  
Monday, June 25 to Sunday, July 1: .....Pravachan by Dr. Bharill  
Friday, August 3 to Sunday August 5: .....Children's Jain Camp  
Wednesday, Aug 15 to Wednesday, Aug 22: .....Paryushan Parva  
Saturday, Aug 18: .....Swapna Ceremony  
Wednesday, Aug 22: .....Samvatsari Pratikraman  
Thursday, Aug 23 to Saturday, Sep 1: .....Das Lakshan Parva  
Friday, Nov 16: .....Nav Smaran  
Sunday, December 9: .....Annual General Meeting

**JAIN SOCIETY OF  
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P.O. BOX 4548, SILVER SPRING, MD 20914**

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