



JAIN

SOCIETY OF METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON

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

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Gautam Shah, Editor

NO8-1

April, 2008

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301-963-6844

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703-999-5396

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Chirag Shah

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Payal Vora

President's Message

Jai Jinendra. Starting this new year 2008, I have been assigned a challenging responsibility of being the President of our active Jain Society. Thanks to our past president Sushil Jain for his hard and master minded work. His well tailored management for last 3 years has left our society in good running condition.

Since we live in the nation's capital city Washington DC, we are in focus of all the visitors from the globe. Few days ago, I received a beautiful message from Mr. Amer Sanghvi, who is working in the World Bank. He is from Dar-e-salam (Tanzania). He wrote that since he is in another country, he is missing visit to Dehraser. But when he found out that there is a Jain temple located in Silver Spring, he visited our temple with his friends Mr. & Mrs. Manning. They met three of our society members who showed them the entire temple and explained them Jain Philosophy. When I called Amer, he told me that he is very grateful to our society for doing such a wonderful work. This is just one example that puts us in focus to construct a new and beautiful temple for our future generation and visitors from around the world. To accelerate this process, we have already formed a comprehensive committee for new temple construction. I am delighted that Prakash Mehta has agreed to lead in this quest. So I urge you all to give him your full support

I would like to welcome some additional members, for the first time to the executive committee: Subhas Choxi, Raju Desai, Nisheeth Mehta, Allap Shah, Gautam Shah and Jatin Shah. Also Rajiv Jain and Chirag Shah have joined us as coordinators of youth committee.

Last but not least, when I am on the learning curve of my responsibilities as a President, please feel free to call me for any suggestions on my personal improvement and improvement in executive committee operations that will benefit the entire society.

Ashok R. Shah

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Special Announcement
Seniors Night at Jain Center
April 5 at 2 p.m.
All Seniors are invited
To join a get together of fun,
Games, Informaton & Dinner

ELECTION RESULTS

Election for 2008 Board of Trustees, Executive committee, and Youth Committee took place in the annual general body meeting held on December 9, 2007. All positions were elected uncontested. The list of all elected members is given on the first page of this newsletter.

NOTEWORTHY

JAINA Now UN Consultant

UN – New York, NY. JAINA has received Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations. Efforts to gain recognition as an NGO (Non Government Organization) were first made in 1998. This year, JAINA embarked on a lengthy process and committee deliberations with ambassadors representing 19 countries (India, US, UK, Egypt, France, Israel, Dominican Republic, Peru, Romania, Pakistan etc.). On January 22, the committee granted Consultative Status to JAINA with unanimous consent. On January 23, the UN issued a press release which reads: "Federation of Jain Associations in North America (document E/C.2/2008/R.2/Add.17), & its member organizations that promotes charitable and humanitarian community-service activities in North America and worldwide, providing and promoting academic and cultural exchange and cooperation and fostering cordial relationship with interfaith and multi-faith organization" Committee member nations have recommended for Special Consultative Status."

What does this mean?

Member organizations via JAINA now have the credentials to partner with the UN and its member organizations in performance of its goals and objectives and be eligible to apply for grants. These grants would be used globally to meet mutually common Economic & Social Millennium Development.

Dr. Tansukh Salgia (Past President of JAINA and Chairman of the JAINA's Government & International Relations Committee), Dr. Sushil Jain (Secretary of JAINA) and Mr. Mahendra Mehta of Ratna Nidhi Charitable Trust collected all the necessary documents, prepared the application and lobbying for the UN. The three of them have been working on this project for last 18 months and deserve a lion's share of the credit for this sterling achievement.

Dr. Salgia wants to specially thank Bacchubhai Ajmera, Prakash Mehta, Bhadrash Dhillia, Manoj Dharamsi, Sushil Jain and other members of JSMW for their hard work for the many years. "We could not have accomplished this without their day-to-day volunteer work and resource support."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mahavir Jayanti Celebration

Sunday, April 20th - 2:30 p.m.

Mahavir Jayanti celebration will be held on Sunday, April 20, 2007 starting at 2:30 p.m. The celebration will include religious dances, songs, prayers, and skits by kids, youths and adults. Swami Vatsalya Bhojan (dinner) will follow the celebration. The celebration will be held at High Point High School, 3601 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville, MD 20705.

Following families are sponsoring Swami Vatsalya Bhojan: Jaysingh & Sumangala Bhandari, Dimpal & Rupal Doshi, Hitesh & Falguni Doshi, Sharad & Sonal Doshi, Shardaben Doshi, Hemen & Bela Gandhi, Bhavesh & Chhaya Shah, Gaurav & Helli Shah, Gautam & Dhruvi Shah, Harshit & Hemangini Shah, Jatin & Ami Shah, Jayesh & Rupa Shah, Paresh & Shilpa Shah, Piyush & Rachana Shah, Pragnesh & Sonal Shah.

RSVP for Swami Vatsalya Bhojan (Dinner):

If you wish to participate in the dinner, you are requested to RSVP by **April 14, 2008** informing about the number of attendees (adults and children of age 4-11 & 12-17). Please RSVP using ONE of following ways:

- ❖ Email: Dinner@JainSocietyDC.org giving details of your name (both husband and wife), number of children and guests and phone number
- ❖ Website: Register at our web site JainSocietyDC.org/Registration.asp
- ❖ Mail: Mailing the enclosed form so as to reach by April 14.
- ❖ Call: Calling any one of the following persons: Ashok/Pallavi Shah at 301-260-1264, Nilesh/Manna Shah at 410-531-6218, or Paresh/Shilpa Shah 703-435-8118.

We will make arrangement for extra food to accommodate guests and members who have not sent their RSVP by April 14. Such guests and members can participate in the dinner by donating a minimum of \$8.00 per person to the Jain temple's Swami Vatsalya fund.

WHEN April 20, 2008 at 2:30 P.M.

WHERE High Point High School,

RSVP BY April 14, 2008

Directions to: High Point High School
3601 Powder Mill Road
Beltsville, MD 20705

From I-95, take exit 29B for Route 212 (Powder Mill Road) towards Calverton. Drive 1.2 miles, the school is on your left.

PAST EVENTS

First Seniors Night

We are proud to report success of First Senior Night at the Jain Center held on March 1st. The event was attended by 39 enthusiastic seniors who along with their introduction let the organizers know what they are looking forward to regarding future activities of this group. The group would like to be known as JSMW Senior Social Club.

It was a five hour program starting with the Navkar Mantra followed by a brief welcome speech by Dr. Sushil Jain, Ashok Shah and Nisheeth Mehta. Dr. Sushil Jain suggested that one person be nominated from amongst the seniors as the coordinator and one for food coordination. Mr. Himmat Desai was kind enough to accept the responsibility of coordinator and Mrs. Sanyukta Shah volunteered to coordinate Food. This was followed by Aarti/ Mangal Divo, Dinner and Movie (Tare Zameen Par).

Some of the important decisions that were made at this meeting were:

- ❖ Seniors group will meet every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month from 3 pm to 6pm
- ❖ All the seniors have pledged some amount which will be used to pay for related activities. Also if no food is sponsored, then the senior member will have to pay for dinner (approx \$6 - \$8 yet to be decided)
- ❖ Most of the seniors were more inclined toward having lectures information topics useful for their day-to-day life; and from time to time, have fun filled events like, field trips, movies etc.

Second Senior's Night:

March 15, 2008 from 2 to 6pm at Jain Center: Lectures on taxation policies were delivered by Mr. Pravin Jain, Mr. Manu Shah & Mr. Satish Shah followed by questions and answers. 51 seniors enjoyed the series of lectures. The night ended with Aarti/ Mangal Divo and Dinner. Dinner was sponsored by Rajeshri Dalal & Pallavi Shah. Thanks to the group of volunteers including Nisheeth & Khyati Mehta, who helped to make this event a grand success.

Next Meeting

April 5, 2008 from 2pm to 6pm at Jain Center: Joanne Burke, RN, MFA – Clinical Director of Award winning Sylvestery & Vincent Hall Complex in McLean, VA. She will speak on what insurance will pay at each level of care. In addition, she will talk about religious and cultural accommodations at each level of care. This will be followed by dinner.

We would like to invite all other seniors of age 55 years and above to join this group and benefit from these lectures specifically organized for you. All first time attendees please fill out an application form that is available with Mr. Himmat Desai and Mrs. Sanyukta Shah.

We need more volunteers for the seniors program, please contact Mr. Ashok Shah at ashok.shah@fgould.com if interested. Let us commit ourselves to the seniors of our society who have contributed so much to their families and society at large.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Following are the details of the ongoing programs at the Jain Center:

- ✚ Sunday School Pathshala 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month - 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon followed by Lunch. Contact: Paresh Shah (See following para for new series of classes starting in September)
- ✚ Adult religious classes in parallel with Sunday School starting on September 30
- ✚ Adult Adhyatmik studies each Sunday - 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
- ✚ Abhishek each Sunday at 9:00 am
- ✚ Monthly Snatra Pooja (Sundays) - 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch
- ✚ Dev Shasta Guru Pooja on 1st Sunday of each month - 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. followed by lunch
- ✚ Monthly Executive Committee meeting 2nd Sunday of each Month - 1:30 p.m. Contact: Bhupesh Mehta
- ✚ *New* - Seniors Night at Jain Center –First and third Saturdays, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. (April 5 program starting at 2 PM) Contact: Himmat Desai, 443-535-8973

Jain Sunday School For Children

Jain Sunday School is held from September through May. It consists of 5 levels of classes (A thru E). The classes are held on 2nd and 4th

Sundays from 10:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. A planned curriculum is followed for each class. Enrollment is open to all members. The next session will start in September, 2008. We urge all members to enroll their children and take advantage of this unique opportunity. Please, fill out the form located on our website. Also the website provides the information on timetable and the curriculum.

Please note that it is mandatory to have the paid registration form given to the Sunday school coordinator prior to attending the children's Sunday School.

Poojas

The Pooja Committee has been very busy performing various Poojas (Vastuk Pooja, Panch Kalyanak Pooja and Antaray Karma Pooja) at the residence of our members and also at the Jain Center. We want to thank the members of Pooja Committee for performing every Pooja with full dedication in a highly professional manner, and for their personal sacrifice to take spirituality to individual homes. If you wish to sponsor any Pooja, please contact Jyoti Doshi at 301-670-6844.

In addition to the above, a Snatra Pooja is performed once a month at the Jain Center. The Pooja starts at 10.30 a.m. followed by Swami Vatsalya lunch. If you and/or your family members plan to attend the Pooja and/or sponsor Swami Vatsalya lunch, please contact:

Pallavi Shah: 301-260-1264

E-mail: pari133@hotmail.com, OR

Manna Shah: 410-531-6218

E-mail: Nilesh_shah99@yahoo.com, OR

Shefali Dalal: (301) 890-3784

Youth Corner

This year the youth committee aims to increase the participation of youth and young adults of all ages at in the Jain Community. We are planning a few main activities throughout the year including a summer picnic, a weekend youth session lead by an invited English Jain scholar, and a youth trip to a neighboring Jain Center. We also will aim to have various social events through out the year for all youth that are interested. Details will

be posted on the Jain Center website and also passed along to the students during patshala as events get set.

This year the Young Jains of America is hosting their 8th biannual National Convention from July 3-6, 2008 in Chicago. Nearly 800 Jain youth from across the country come to each convention in order to learn from prominent Jain Scholars and share experiences with youth their age from across the country. For more information please visit <http://www.yja.org/chicago/>. If you have any questions feel free to contact us.

We will require an active involvement from parents of patshala students to help us increase the involvement of their children at these activities. We look forward to working with you and if you have any question, suggestions, or would like to get more involved feel free to contact us at any time.

Chirag Shah and Rajiv Jain

GREEN NEWSLETTER

Are you aware that you can view and print your own copy of newsletter from the Jain Society's website before it is even released to the printer ??? By receiving your own copy via email, you will not only receive it before everyone else, but you will also be:

- ❖ Saving trees and environment
- ❖ Saving costs of paper processing
- ❖ Saving printing and mailing costs
- ❖ Saving volunteers' time

To assist in saving hundred of dollars spent in printing and mailing Newsletters, please, simply access our website at www.JainSocietyDC.org or provide us your e-mail if you haven't done so. We will send you notification of the release of the newsletter. You will also get notified of the last minute updates on all activities related to Jain Society. While this is strictly voluntary, please consider the financial savings to our society.

Members are encouraged to get the Newsletter by e-mail only (and not a hard copy) by mailing (or e-mailing) the attached form requesting newsletter by e-mail only. *Let's save environment, time and money by going green on newsletter.*

Congratulations:

To Sumangalaben Jaysingh Bhandari for her achievement of completing Navanu Yatra in Palitana.

Lost Loved Ones

Our following members lost their loved one. Let's pray for them, may God give them strength to withstand this loss.

- Dr. Arvind B. Shah, father of Jatin Shah passed away on 12/31/07.
- Alpa Milan Dharamshi, daughter-in-law of Dilip & Kusum Dharamshi passed away on 2/6/2008
- Shardaben Shah, mother of Devendra Shah passed away on 2/14/08



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MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 4548, SILVER SPRING, MD 20914

YES, WE WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE ONLY E-MAIL COPY OF THE JAIN SOCIETY'S NEWSLETTERS AND CIRCULARS

Last Name: _____ First Names: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phones: _____

E-Mail Addresses in Capital Letters: _____

Cut here and mail in a stamped addressed envelope



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WILL ATTEND MAHAVIR JAYANTI CELEBRATION SWAMIVATSALYA BHOJAN ON APRIL 20, 2008

Last Name: _____ First Names: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phones: _____

E-Mail Addresses in Capital Letters: _____

No. of Persons (over age 5) attending the Swami Vatsalya Bhojan

Adults: _____ Children age 12-17 _____ Children age 5-11 _____

Donation Check for \$ _____ Check No. _____ is enclosed

DONATIONS TO JAIN SOCIETY (OVER \$51)

Received as of March 7, 2008

(Does not include donations made by our members to other non-profit organizations)

General Donations

\$2,500	Kasliwal, Ravindra & Manju	101	Shah, Bhadresh & Chandrika
511	Shah, Paresh & Shilpa	101	Shah, Kishor & Shushila
400	Shah, Ajit & Shilpa	101	Anonymous donation
300	Shah, Jatin & Ami	100	Recht Joel (For Bhawanji Jain)
251	Sanghani, Amita P.	100	Shah, Manish & Nina Shah
201	Mehta, Arvind & Nayana	100	Suntrust Bank
201	Shah, Nilesh & Manna	51	Jhaveri, Pramod & Hansa
150	Verizon (Matching Donation)	51	Shah, Kirit & Nilaxi
101	Shah, Allap and Budhendrabhai		

Gheeboli

\$501	Gangar, Ashok & Nayana	\$151	Bhandari, Shashikant & Manju
400	Shah, Ajit & Shilpa Shah	201	Khona, Sudhir & Dharini
182	Vora, Rajesh & Sujata		

Pooja / Jeev Daya/ Arti / Mangal Deevo

\$401	Jain, Jatin & Parul	\$251	Shah, Mahendra & Bharti
251	Doshi, Jasvant & Kunju	151	Mehta, Vipul & Parul
151	Sanghani, Amita P.	51	Shah, Bipin C.

Youth Camp

\$275	Choxi, Subhash & Arti	\$175	Vora, Bhavi & Anju
175	Vora, Navin & Nirmala	150	Bid, Champa & Velji

Youth Swamivatsalya

Kirit & Nilaxi Shah, Dinesh & Usha Shah, Ashok & Pallavi Sha, Jawahar & Doler Shah

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Web address: www.JainSocietyDC.org

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Upcoming Events for 2008

Sundays 2nd & 4th @ 10:15 a.mPathshala (Adult & Children)
Sundays @ 8:00 a.m. Adult Adhyatmik Studies
Sundays @ 9:00 a.m.Abhishek
Sundays 1st @ 10:00 a.mDev Shasta Guru Pooja
Sundays Monthly @ 10:30 a.m.Snatra Pooja
Sunday, April 20 @ 2:30 p.m. Mahavir Jayanti Celebration
Sunday, May 25 – Thursday, May 29 Shree Pandit Dhirajlalji Mehta Pravachan
Tuesday August 12 – Thursday August 21 Dineshbhai / Ujjvalaben Shah Pravachan
Wednesday, August 27 – Wednesday, September 3 Paryushan Parva
Saturday/Sunday - August 30 or 31 (TBD)Swapna Ceremony
Wednesday, September 3Samvatsari Pratikraman
Thursday, September 4 – Saturday, September 13 Das Lakshan Parva
Monday, November 3 – Saturday, November 8 Tarlaben Doshi Pravachan
December (Date TBD) Annual General Meeting and Elections