



# JAIN

## SOCIETY OF METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON

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

JAIN CENTER LOCATION: 1021 BRIGGS CHANEY ROAD, SILVER SPRING, MD • PHONE: (301) 236-4466

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

**Web Address: [www.JainSocietyDC.org](http://www.JainSocietyDC.org) E-Mail: [WebMaster@JainSocietyDC.org](mailto:WebMaster@JainSocietyDC.org)**

Gautam Shah, Editor

NO9-1

April, 2009

### **President**

Ashok R. Shah  
301-260-1264

### **Vice-President**

Paresh Shah  
703-435-8118

### **Secretary**

Bhupesh Mehta  
301-358-3370

### **Joint-Secretary**

Gautam Shah  
571-643-0643

### **Treasurer**

Praveen Jain  
240-252-4719

### **Joint-Treasurer**

Raju Desai  
703-999-5396

### **Members-at-Large**

Allap Shah  
Subhash Choxsi  
Jatin Shah  
Mina A. Shah  
Nilesh Shah  
Sailesh Shah  
Jai Bhandari  
Sharad Doshi  
Hemen Gandhi

### **Past President**

Sushil K. Jain  
301-670-0519

### **Board of Trustees**

#### **Chairman**

Bachubhai Ajmera  
301-924-8070

#### **Trustees**

Manoj Dharamsi  
703-620-9837  
Pravin Dand  
301-384-3367  
Atul Shah  
301-274-0319

### **Youth Committee**

#### **Coordinator**

Nisheeth Mehta

#### **Members**

Sonia Dalal  
Shivali Choxi  
Kruti Mehta  
Parita Shah  
Parth Shah  
Payal Vora

## President's Message

**J**ai Jinendra.

With the love and trust of all members our society, I will continue serving as president for this year. This is an amazing year because it is 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary for our Jain temple Pratishta of our temple was performed in August 1989 .

I would like to welcome three new Members Sharad Doshi, Hemen Gandhi & Jay Bhandari to our Executive Committee; and Manu G. Shah for joining as our representative to JAINA along with current representatives Manoj Dharamsi and Sushil Jain.

As we discussed in last general body meeting, due to special zoning restriction imposed by Montgomery County on our property, we can not expand or build new temple at our current location. Hence, we need to find a new location for building our new temple. In an effort to accomplish our task, we have formed several sub-committees. These groups of dedicated people are working hard to ensure our dreams come true. The temple committee coordinator Prakash Mehta will provide more details during upcoming Mahavir Jayanti Program.

The Executive Committee and board of Trustees realize the urgent need to meet the growing demand on our facility. We have discussed various options for your consideration and implementations. By making these modifications in facility

usage and schedule, we will be able to plan more religious and social activities that you enjoy the most.

Mahavir Jayanti is around the corner on April 19<sup>th</sup> and committee is hard at work with its preparations. Almost all of our Sunday School Pathshala children are taking part along with a large group of adults. In addition, it is wonderful to note that our senior group also decided to take part in the program. But folks, please remember that this is not the only program that you want to participate. Please visit our temple more frequently and enjoy activities all year around. I urge and invite you to lend your hand in making our community even more vibrant. If you have any ideas, or want to volunteer, please write me an e-mail ([ashok.shah@fgould.com](mailto:ashok.shah@fgould.com)) or call me @ 703-946-4417. Thank you for your continued support.

Ashok R. Shah

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message .....	Page 1
Prayers For Lost Loved Ones .....	Page 2
Mahavir Jayanti .....	Page 2
Jainism On Radio.....	Page 2
JAINA Convention Update.....	Page 3
Pathshala - Sunday School.....	Page 4
Seniors Group .....	Page 4
Birth Announcements .....	Page 4
Omissions .....	Page 4
Ongoing Activities.....	Page 5
Donations .....	Page 6
Mahavir Jayanti RSVP Form.....	Page 7

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Mahavir Jayanti Celebration Sunday, April 19 2:00 PM

**W**e will be celebrating Bhagawan Mahavir Swami's 2608th Janma Kalyanak (Mahavir Jayanti), a very auspicious day for all Jains. Our celebration will feature performance of religious stage programs by our children and adults followed by a Swami Vatsalya Bhojan (dinner). Each year, over 700 persons attend the celebration.

When April 19 2008 at 2:00 P.M.  
Where High Point High School, 3601 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville, MD 20705  
RSVP By April 15, 2009 for dinner participation

Directions to: High Point High School

From Capital Beltway I-495, take I-95N. Take exit 29B, Rt. 212 (Power Mill Road) towards Calverton. Drive 1.2 miles, the school is on your left.

From Baltimore, take I-95S to Washington. Take exit 29B, Rt. 212 (Power Mill Road) towards Calverton. Drive 1.2 miles, the school is on your left.

We are still looking for a sponsor for the Mahavir Jayanti Swami Vatsalya Bhojan (dinner). Please contact Ashok Shah at 703-946-441 if you are interested in sponsoring the Swami Vatsalya Bhojan. If we cannot get a sponsor, Members sending RSVP by the deadline will be required to make a minimum donation of \$7.00 per person to the Swami Vatsalya fund. We will make arrangement for extra food to accommodate guests and members who have not sent their RSVP by the deadline. Such individuals can participate in the dinner by donating a minimum of \$10.00 per person to the Swami Vatsalya fund.

If you wish to participate in the dinner, please inform us of the number of participants (adults, and children of age 4-11 & 12-17) before Wednesday, April 15th, 2009

You may inform us by ONE of following methods:

1. E-mailing Dinner@JainSocietyDC.org giving details of your name (both husband and wife) , phone number and members attending
2. Registering at our web site <http://www.JainSocietyDC.org/Registration.asp>
3. Mailing the enclosed form so as to reach by Wednesday, April 15th , 2009
4. Calling any one of the following persons:  
Shefali Dalal: 301-890-3784  
Manna Shah: 410-531-6218  
Pallavi Shah: 301-260-1264  
Shilpa Shah: 703-435-8118

#### Mahavir Jayanti Stage Program DVD:

The stage program video DVD will be available for a payment donation of \$8 per DVD on the Mahavir Jayanti function day and later for a donation of \$10 per DVD. The DVD will be available for pick up at the Jain Center. To order the DVD after April 19, please send an email to ashok.shah@fgould.com or call Ashok shah at 703-946-4417, Paresh Shah at 703-435-8118, or Bhupesh Mehta at 240-678-9344. The request should reach us by May 31st 2009.

#### Jainism On Radio

**B**hupesh Mehta, our secretary, will be a guest panelist speaker on five part 30 minute weekly 'Frederick Faith Debate' program on Jainism on the local radio station WFMD AM930 starting April 12<sup>th</sup> 2009. Following topics on Jainism will be discussed with the host Troy Skinner, as well as a local pastor, Reverend Jonathan Switzer. Jonathan Switzer is co-founder of The Frederick Faith Debate and Senior Pastor of Crossroads Valley Chapel, an

independent non-denominational Christian church in Frederick.

April 12	Unpacking the history and heritage of the Jain religion.
April 19	What are the beliefs and practices of Jainism?
April 26	How do Jainism and Christianity differ with regards to the uniqueness of humankind and the nature of God?
May 3	What constitutes "violence", and is it ever appropriate to kill anything at all... even a vegetable?
May 10	Is deeply felt, attached, passionate love an ideal or a vice?

Audio podcast of sessions will be available at <http://jmw.mypodcast.com>. You may also visit <http://www.wfmd.com> to learn more about the Frederick Faith Debate.

## JAINA Convention Update

**J**ai Jinendra Sadharmi Jains,

For quite some time, we have been very concerned at deteriorating economic conditions in the U.S. and rest of the world and have been thinking about how best to minimize the impact of worsening situation on convention attendees and on JAINA. Our biennial conventions have a long and proud history of bringing Jains together and promoting the cause of Jainism. But the present conditions demand that we refocus the convention in a way that will still provide all the benefits of a traditional convention while reducing the cost of attending the convention. Accordingly, we have decided on the following changes:

The convention venue will be moved from Anaheim Convention Center to the Jain Center of Southern California's newly renovated Jain Bhavan in Los Angeles. Their 62,000 sq. feet

cultural complex & 13,000 sq ft Temple successfully hosted 2500+ attendees during their Pratishtha Mahotsav in September 2008. We are quite confident that this site will be able to easily accommodate all our requirements. Please visit <http://www.jaincenter.net/newsite/> for details.

Convention registration fee has been reduced significantly: Early bird Registration fee for adults has been reduced from \$150 to \$100 per person. Please visit [www.jaina.org](http://www.jaina.org) for more details and to register. We are working on refund process for those who have already registered and the information will be posted at [www.jaina.org](http://www.jaina.org). Early bird registration deadline has been extended from March 15th to April 15<sup>th</sup> 2009.

Crown Plaza Hotel (1500 South Raymond Ave. Fullerton, CA 1-714-635-9000) has been selected as exclusive hotel for the convention. A special rate of US \$90+ taxes per day will be made available for the convention attendees. Please book early to avoid disappointment. Free transportation will be provided only between this hotel and the convention site. Please visit [www.jaina.org](http://www.jaina.org) for more details.

We want to emphasize that while changes are being made to the venue and the registration fee is reduced for this convention – there are no significant changes being made to the content of the convention. All Jain21 (JNF) and Youth programs will still be held at Convention Hotels. We hope you will agree that with no significant changes in the program content and lower fees – this convention now offers a much better value and we look forward to seeing you all in Los Angeles in July 2009.

For any questions or further information, please email [registration2009@jaina.org](mailto:registration2009@jaina.org) or contact:

Dilip V. Shah JAINA President, 1902 Chestnut Street Philadelphia PA 19103 (215) 561 0581	Ashvin Mehta JAINA Headquarters 43-11 Ithaca Street Elmhurst, NY 11373 718 606-2885 <a href="mailto:jainahq@gmail.com">jainahq@gmail.com</a>
--	---

## Siddha Chakra Aradhana

Siddha Chakra Poojan was performed on Saturday, March 28 by members of our Society. The program started at 12:39 PM and ran for 90 minutes. Over 100 persons participated in the program. The Siddha Chakra Yantra was donated by Dr. Atul Shah and his sister Sujata Vora. The program was followed by Shanti Kalash, Arti and Mangal Divo. Swami Vatsalya Bhojan was sponsored by Sailesh & Mona Shah.

## Pathshala Jain Sunday School

**J**ain Sunday School is held for children age 6 to 17, twice a month from September through May from 10:15 AM to 12:30 PM at Jain Center. We have a total of 63 students enrolled for current year 2008-09. Current year 2008-09 program will end on May 10th. The last day of Pathshala will be celebrated with fun fair activities at Jain Center.

The 2009-10 year Pathshala program will start from 13 September 2009 with registration starting in August 2009. We urge all members to enroll their children and take advantage of this unique opportunity of teaching our religion to our children.

We are pleased to welcome two new teachers - Bela Gandhi and Kavita Jain. We hope they will be with Pathshala for years to come.

Arvindbhai Mehta and Kashmiraben Vaywala have retired after years of service to our Pathshala teachers. We would like to thank them for their several years of volunteer service to Pathshala. Our volunteer teachers are a key to success of our Pathshala. We would not have such vibrant Pathshala without the dedication and hard work of our teachers. Thank you!

## Seniors Group

**S**enior group of our Jain Society of Metropolitan Washington was formed in March 2008 for seniors 55 years of age. So far 107 members have joined the group. At present about 57% of the seniors are still at work. The group promotes, organizes and assists seniors in furtherance of personal, legal and financial management as well as health management encompassing physical health and medical care. It arranges programs on tax advice, health lectures, cultural/musical evenings, picnics, visits to other places, etc. For more information, please call Himmatbhai Desai at 443-535-8973.

## Prayers for Lost Loved Ones

**O**ur sincerest condolences and prayers on loss of members of our following Sangh families:

(1) Lilawantiben Shah, Mother of Dharaj and Nalini Shah on December 31, 2008;

(2) Chandangauri Kothari, mother of Mahendra-Shaileshi, Kaushik-Panna, Nitin-Pratibha, Rajesh-Bhamini, Late Pankaj, Vinay-Rajeshree, Nilesh-Neera and Dipak-Heena on January 15, 2009; and

(3) Tejal Khajuria, daughter of Kirit & Bharti Khajuria & Fiancé of Ankush, son of Dr. Sushil & Asha Jain on March 15, 2009

## Birth Announcements

Welcome the new arrival of Tirth and Jayen. Tirth was born to Sheetal and Allap Shah in January. Jayen was born to Jallika and Ashish Tolia in December. Congratulations to the families for blessed additions!

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES

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

- ✚ Bi-weekly Sunday School is held on alternate Sundays. New Pathshala program will start on 13 September. Registration will be held in August. Please contact Pathshala coordinator Paresh Shah for any questions.
- ✚ Adult religious classes in are also held in parallel with Sunday School. Please contact Dr. Atul Shah at 301-274-0319, or Pravin Dand at 301-384-3367
- ✚ Adult Adhyatmik study classes are held on each Sunday - 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Please call Rajni Gosalia at 301-464-5947
- ✚ Abhishek is performed each Sunday at 9:00 am
- ✚ Monthly Snatra Pooja is generally held on Sundays starting at 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch. For details, please contact. Pallavi or Ashok Shah at 301-260-1264, Manna or Nilesh Shah at 401-531-6218, or Shefali Dalal at 301- 890-3784.
- ✚ Vastuk Pooja, Panch Kalyanak Pooja, Antaray Karma Pooja and other Poojas can be performed on request, either at members' residences or at Jain Center. Please contact Jyoti Doshi at 301-670-6844.
- ✚ Dev Shasta Guru Pooja is held on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month - 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. followed by lunch. Please contact Dr. Nisha Jain at 301-309-2093
- ✚ Monthly Executive Committee meeting is held on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each Month - 1:30 p.m. Please contact Secretary Bhupesh Mehta for any questions.

## Our Sincere Apologies

Our sincerest apologies for missing following information in the previous newsletter.

### **Paryushan Tapasya Tap:**

Congratulations to Priyal, daughter of Bela & Hemen Gandhi for Atthai tap at the young age of 13. Priyal is real aspiration for not only kids but adults of Jain community.

### **Visiting Sangh Swami Vatsalya Sponsorship:**

Harshit and Hemangani Shah generously sponsored Swami Vatsalya for the Sangh visiting from New Jersey.

## Teachings of Lord Mahavir

- Fight with yourself, why fight with external foes?
- He who conquers himself through himself will obtain happiness.
- All beings hate pain, therefore one should not hurt or kill them. Ahimsa is the highest religion.
- A man is seated on the top of a tree in the midst of a burning forest. He sees all living beings perish. But he doesn't realize that the same fate is soon to overtake him also. That man is a fool.

## 10 Commandments of Non-Violence (Ahimsa)

1. Live and let live. Love all. Serve all.
2. Where there is love, there is life. Violence is suicide.
3. All souls are alike and potentially divine. None is superior or inferior.
4. All living beings long to live. No one wants to die.
5. Have compassion towards all living beings. Hatred leads to destruction.
6. Silence and self control is non-violence.
7. I dislike pain, so all other beings also dislike pain.
8. A wise person does not kill, nor causes others to kill, nor consents to the killing by others.
9. Respect for all living beings is non-violence.
10. Non-violence is the highest religion.

## DONATIONS TO JAIN SOCIETY (OVER \$51)

**Received as of March 31, 2009**

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

### General donations

\$1,001	Kamlesh & Gita Shah	\$101	Prakash Chandra Patni (from India)
\$750	Shefali Dalal (Through Verizon)	\$101	Laxmikant Sogani (from India)
\$501	Ashok & Nayana Gangar	\$101	Minaxi Shah
\$301	Siddharth & Smita Shah	\$101	Piyush & Kalpna Srimal
\$251	Rushabh & Manpreet Shah	\$101	Ramesh & Jaishree Junankar
\$250	Kamal & Aarti Doshi	\$101	Suresh & Punit Jain
\$201	Hiren Jain	\$100	SunTrust
\$201	Jatin & Toral Shah	\$51	Amolak C & Usha Jain
\$136	Hemen & Bela Gandhi	\$51	Dinesh & Purnima Joshi
\$125	Sanjay & Sangeeta Shah		

### Special Donations - In Memory Of Tejal Khajuria

\$501	Kirit & Bharti Khajuria	\$101	Narendra & Jyotsna Goda
\$501	Sushil & Asha Jain	\$384	Cash & Checks (Under 50 \$)
\$251	Shantaben Goda & Family		

### Special Donations

\$501	Parag and Anshu Mehta for Swami Vatsalya
\$101	Manu Shah in Memory of Inaxi Shah

### Poojas

\$351	Allap Budhendra Shah	\$152	Ashok & Pallavi Shah
\$351	Jignesh & Jaimini Shah	\$151	Kamlesh & Chandrika Shah
\$301	Kirti & Sharmista Shah	\$101	Nimesh & Vaishali Shah Chheda
\$253	Jay & Rakhi Jariwala	\$101	Ramesh & Varsha Mehta
\$251	Sailesh & Mona Shah	\$100	Anand Shah
\$201	Ajit & Shilpa Shah	\$51	Vinod & Seema Singhai

### Life Members

\$151	Ashish & Jallika Tolia
\$151	Hitesh & Jyoti Shah
\$151	Anand Shah

### 3-Year Members

\$51	Jignesh & Jaimini Shah
------	------------------------

## Mahavir Jayanti Swami Vatsalya Bhojan

If you plan to attend Swami Vatsalya Bhojan on April 19, please RSVP so that it is received by April 15th 2009.

### Option 1: E-Mail

E-mailing Dinner@JainSocietyDC.org giving details of your name (both husband and wife), phone number and number of members attending Bhojan.

### Option 2: Online Registration

Online RSVP Registration at <http://www.JainSocietyDC.org/Registration.asp>

### Option 3: Phone

Please call Shefali Dalal: 301-890 3784 or Manna Shah: 410 -531-6218 or Pallavi Shah: 301-260-1264 or Shilpa Shah: 703-435-8118.

### Option 4: Mail

Cut, fill and mail note below to P.O. BOX 4548, SILVER SPRING, MD 20914. Please remember that the form should be RECEIVED by April 15<sup>th</sup> 2009, so please provide sufficient time for mail.

-----



# JAIN

## SOCIETY OF METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON

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

---

### WILL ATTEND MAHAVIR JAYANTI CELEBRATION SWAMIVATSALYA BHOJAN ON APRIL 19, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Check/Donation for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check No. \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.



**JAIN**

**SOCIETY OF METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON**

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

**Web address: [www.JainSocietyDC.org](http://www.JainSocietyDC.org)**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED  
FORWARDING POSTAGE GUARANTEED**

## **Upcoming Events for 2009**

Date (TBD)..... Jain Social Evening at Jain Temple  
Date (TBD) .....Picnic  
Date (TBD) ..... Panch Teerth Yatra  
April 19 .....Mahavir Jayanti Celebration  
May 10.....Sunday School 2008-09 Last Day Celebration  
July 19 ..... Health Fair  
August 8, 9 ..... Youth Camp With Dr. Falguni Zhaveri  
August 26 ..... Swapna Ceremony  
August 16 to 23 ..... Paryushan With Pandit Dhirajlalji Mehta  
September 13 .....Sunday School 2009-10 Starts  
October 5 to 9 .....Tarlaben Doshi Pravachan  
October 18 .....Diwali Dinner  
October 19 ..... Nav Smaran  
November 26.....Thanksgiving Day Ayambil  
December 13, 2:30 PM.....Annual General Meeting and Elections