



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 E-Mail: WebMaster@JainSocietyDC.org

Jatin Shah, Editor

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NO6-1

March, 2006

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301-670-0519

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301-847-1026

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202-966-4459

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Mina A. Shah
301-476-7620

Nilesh Shah
301-549-2776

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703-435-8118

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Manoj Dharamsi
703-620-9837

Pravin Dand
301-384-3367

Youth Committee
Coordinator

Sonal Sheth
202-884-0270

Members

Apoorva Parikh
Nimit Mehta

301-279-0537
Parita Shah

301-260-1264
Payal Vora

301-977-5482

President's Message

Jai Jinendra. I want to bring you greetings on behalf of the 2006 Executive Committee, and thank you for your continuous support. During the past few weeks, our community has suffered a great loss of several of our dedicated members. May peace be on their soul and god bless those left behind.

I am pleased to report that in past few weeks, the utilization of our Jain Center has gone up significantly. Many of our members originating from various parts of India are organizing and performing Monthly Snatra Pooja, Devshastra Guru Pooja, etc. on Saturdays or Sundays followed by lunch open to all as detailed in the calendar of events. In addition, few of our Pathshala parents are voluntarily providing lunch after Sunday School classes. I encourage every one to participate in these and many more planned activities.

In our continuous quest of improving and offering additional community services, we need more volunteers. Please visit our web site to view volunteer committee listing and volunteer yourself in at least one committee. We need your help, do not wait for us to call you, instead call us and volunteer.

Dr. Sushil Jain

Trustee's Report

The Board of Trustees and other members of the Jain Center Expansion Committee, under the leadership of Mr. Pravin Dand, are looking into the expansion of the Jain Center to include an authentic temple, more classrooms, hall, commercial kitchen, etc. Recently, the committee discussed our space requirement with consideration of possible growth in future years. We have discussed our requirements with 2 different architects, discussed various alternatives, and have

estimated budget requirements for expansion in phases. In the near future, we will prepare a preliminary expansion plan and present it to our members at a General Body meeting so as to get feedback from all members. Based on the feedback received, a final plan will be prepared and submitted to the county for approval.

The Jain Center belongs to all members, and with ownership comes certain obligations including making contributions to cover the running expenses for the Jain Center. All members are requested to join the Adopt Jain Center Program. In this program, you pledge to make an annual donation of \$151 (or higher amount) for adopting Jain Center for one day. You may select a date that has a special significance for your family (birthday, marriage day, etc.); however, selection of a date is optional. You can also select more than one dates with a minimum donation pledge of \$151 for each date.

At the recent meeting of the Board of Trustees, I requested Dr. Atul Shah to take over the chairmanship responsibility, and he kindly agreed to accept it. In future, you will get these reports from our new chairman, Dr. Atul Shah.

Manoj Dharamsi

Youth Committee Report

Since November, we have been busy planning a joint trip for 8-12th graders with the Rajdhani Mandir in Chantilly, VA. From Saturday, March 25 to Sunday, March 26, we will be in New York City to do a college tour of NYU, visit the new Jain temple in Elmhurst, sightsee, and meet new teens. Other tentative plans for the year are as follows:

1. Completing plans for a children's playground at the Jain Center
2. Planning a trip to the amusement park
3. Organizing an art competition
4. Holding a sports day

If you are interested in making suggestions or helping out with these activities, please contact a committee member.

Sonal Sheth, Youth Coordinator

Treasurer's Report

Thanks to all members for their generous donations to our Jain Society. As per our policy, donations of \$25 and higher are acknowledged below:

Donations

\$3701	Himanshu & Bindu Bhavsar	Swami Vatsalya
\$1037	Rajesh & Sujata Vora	Gheeboli Pooja / Gheeboli / Katrina relief
\$903	Paresh & Shilpa Shah	
\$783	Sanjay & Sangeeta Shah	Gheeboli
\$752	Subhash & Arti Choxi	For Pooja
\$503	Ashok & Nayana Gangar	Gheeboli / Katrina relief
\$501	Prashant & Sweta Doshi	Gheeboli Gheeboli / General Donation
\$401	Manchand & Nirmala Maloo	Donation
\$285	Bhupendra & Dipali Shah	Gheeboli
\$252	Sudhir & Dharini Khona	Gheeboli
\$251	Vipul & Falguni Baldia	General Donation
\$251	Arvind & Sanyukta Shah	Gheeboli
\$251	Jagat & Shila Shah	General Donation In memory of Savitaben Vora
\$251	Ramnik Vora	
\$202	Minaxi Shah	General Donation
\$201	Gunvanti Bhavsar	For Pooja
\$201	Jasvant & Kunju Doshi	Gheeboli
\$201	Hemen & Bela Gandhi	For Pooja
\$201	Rajni & Sarla Gosalia	For JAANA
\$201	Kushal & Mankuwar Jain	For JAANA
\$201	Bhawanji & Kala Jain	For JAANA
\$201	Manu Shah	In memory of Inaxi Shah
\$201	Harshit & Hemangini Shah	For Pooja
\$152	Kanu & Jyoti Doshi	Grandchild birth In memory of Induben Shah
\$151	Bhavesh & Chhaya Shah	
\$151	Talak & Ranjana Shah	For JAANA
\$151	Sharad Shah	Katrina relief
\$151	Sharad S. Shah CA	Katrina relief
\$151	Manu & Inaxi Shah	Adopt Jain Center
\$131	Anupam & Mainaki Shah	Gheeboli
\$125	Gagan & Rena Nirula	General Donation
\$121	Vasanti Sanghvi	Gheeboli
\$101	Tushar Bhavsar	Katrina relief
\$101	Ramesh & Jaishree Junankar	General Donation
\$101	Arvind & Nayana Mehta	Katrina relief
\$101	Manish & Nirmala Vora	Katrina relief

\$100	Nancy Nirmala Hanke	General Donation
\$71	Atul & Aruna Shah	General Donation
\$51	Allen & Mona Absalon	General Donation

Membership (New & Renewal)

\$51	Rahul Jain	Membership - 3 Yrs
\$51	Hiren Shah	Membership - 3 Yrs

Ashok Shah, Treasurer

FUTURE PROGRAMS

Ayambil, Saturday, April 8

The Ayambil Oli starts on April 5th and ends on April 13. The Ayambil program will be held on Saturday, April 8th, 2006 at noon. The Shah Family is sponsoring this program. If you wish to take part, please call Sanjay and Sangeeta Shah at 301-847-1026.

Mahavir Jayanti Program, Saturday, April 22

Mahavir Jayanti celebration will be held on Saturday, April 22, 2006 starting at 2:30 p.m. As in the past, the celebration will include stage programs (religious dances, prayer songs, religious drama and skits, etc) by adults and youth. Please note that due to limited time and overwhelming request for performances, we have established program guidelines as stated below. A Swami Vatsalya Bhojan will follow the stage program. The Swami Vatsalya dinner will be sponsored by Bakula Bhavsar, Rajiv & Leena Batavia, Kiran & Anjana Chudgar, Tarun and Ila Dharia, Ramesh & Bharati Doshi, Narendra & Jyoti Goda, Pramod & Hansa Jhaveri, Sudhir & Dharani Khona, Harshad & Taru Matalia, Prakash & Kirtida Mehta, Ramesh & Varsha Mehta, Prakash & Nisha Parekh, Kamal & Jyoti Sanghani, Anupam & Mainaki Shah, Bhadra & Chandrika Shah, Devendra & Jayshree Shah, Hasmukh & Sudha Shah, Hemant & Malika Shah, Mahendra & Bharati Shah, Rekha Shah, Shashikant & Sharmi Shah, and Nayana Talsania.

A RSVP Form for Swami Vatsalya dinner is enclosed. You all are requested to inform us by mailing the enclosed form or you can also register for dinner on our web www.JainSocietyDC.org by clicking on the "Events" menu and then clicking on the "Mahavir Jayanti Registration." before the deadline of April 16. We will make arrangements for some extra food to accommodate attendees without RSVP by April 16. However, these

persons will be requested to make a minimum donation of \$6.00 per person to the Swami Vatsalya Fund.

For our Mahavir Jayanti program, we have requested Montgomery County to allocate to us the Paint Branch High School, 14121 Old Columbia Pike, Burtonsville, MD 20866, Ph: (301) 989-5600. In case of any change in the location, we will inform you and provide directions on the web as well as outside the Jain Center.

Directions to the Paint Branch High School from Jain Center are: Turn right on Briggs Chaney Road. Turn left on the traffic light for Old Columbia Pike (one light before Route 29, Columbia Pike). The High School is on your right within half mile.

From I-495: Take exit 30 for Route 29 North (Colesville Road). After 2.5 miles, the road name changes to Columbia Pike. After driving about 6.5 miles on Route 29 (Colesville Road/Columbia Pike), turn left on the traffic light for Briggs Chaney Road. After turning left on Briggs Chaney Road, immediately turn right on the first traffic light for Old Columbia Pike. Within half mile, school will be on your right.

From I-95: Take exit 33 for Route 198 West towards Burtonsville. After passing US-29, turn left on the first traffic light for Old Columbia Pike. Within 2 miles, the school will be on your left.

Mahavir Jayanti Guidelines for Program Performers

In an effort to insure fair and equitable participation by all and to maintain quality, our Mahavir Jayanti Celebration Committee (Himanshu Mehta, Mina Shah, and Toral Shah) developed following guidelines. The purpose of these guidelines is to make sure everyone has the opportunity to show case their talent on a first come first serve basis. We want to encourage adults and youths to take part in this grand celebration. Mina Shah will coordinate the final sequence of events, and coordinate with teachers and parents. Toral Shah will coordinate with Youth Committee regarding the Master of Ceremony after she gets descriptions of events. Himanshu Mehta will serve as stage manager to ensure program execution is done in the order decided. Please let us know if you have any questions or need clarifications about these guidelines.

1. No event should have less than 3 individuals. (No solo performances)
2. No duplication of events (no Stavan, Stuti or Dance should be repeated)

3. A participant cannot participate in more than 2 events as we want to give other individuals a chance to participate.

4. All entries should be emailed by April 10, 2006. No verbal submission or late entries will be accepted. The email addresses are: shahmina2003@yahoo.com, and toral_gala@yahoo.com They can be contacted by phone for questions - Mina Shah @ 301-476-7620 or Toral Shah @ 202-966-4459

5. While providing entry information, the title, description of the event, names of performers, age group, and duration should be given. (Special permission will be required for item longer than 5 minutes in duration).

6. The event director (teacher / parent) is responsible for the stage set up

7. The cassette and/or CD should be submitted with one song only, one week prior to the event.

8. No latecomers will be allowed to perform after their scheduled turn has passed.

ONGOING EVENTS

Details of the following ongoing programs are given.

1. Sunday School Pathshala 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon followed by Lunch. POC: Nilesh Shah
2. Adult religious classes in parallel with Sunday School
3. Adult Adhyatmik studies each Sunday 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
4. Monthly Snatra Pooja
5. Dev Shastra Guru Pooja on 3rd Sunday of each month 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. followed by lunch.
6. Monthly Executive Committee meeting 2nd Sunday of each Month 1:30 p.m.. POC: Jatin Shah

Sunday School

Jain Sunday School is open to children between ages 6 to 18 years. The school year is from September through May. The classes are held on 2nd and 4th Sundays from 10:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. unless stated. Sunday School consists of 6 different levels of classes (A through F) each following a specific curriculum developed by teachers, Veena Dand, Kalpana Hegde, Arvind Mehta, Nayna Mehta, Hemangini Shah, Kamlesh Shah, Minal Shah, Pallavi Shah, Rupal Shah, and Kashmira Vaywala

A lunch is also available after each Sunday School. If you wish to sponsor lunch, please contact Nilesh Shah at 301-549 2776. The last day for Sunday School for Year 2005-2006 is May 28 2006. All students must take final exam on 05-28-2006. If you are unavailable to take your exam for any reason, please inform Nilesh Shah at 301-549 2776.

Adult Classes on Jainism

Adult classes to provide basic knowledge of Jainism are being held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays from 10:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in parallel with children's classes. Please contact Atulbhai Shah at (301) 274-0319 and/or Pravinbhai Dand at 301-384-3367 for more detail. Parents whose children are attending classes and all members are encouraged to join the adult classes.

Adult Adhyatmik study sessions are held from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. every Sunday morning. Please contact Rajnibhai Gosalia at 301-464-5947 for more details.

Monthly Pooja

We have started holding a Snatra Pooja at our temple every month starting at 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch. Everyone is welcomed to participate. Please contact Mrs. Kunju Doshi at 301-540-8988 or Mrs. Pallavi Shah at 301-260-1264 to insure proper quantities for lunch. Please mark your calendar with the following Pooja dates.

Saturday, April 1, 2006
Saturday, April 29, 2006
Sunday, May 28, 2006
Sunday, June 25, 2006

Also, please note that Devshastra Guru Pooja is conducted on third Sunday of each month at 10:00 a.m. followed by lunch. All are invited. Please RSVP to Dr. Pawan Jain 301-309-2093.

PAST EVENTS

General Body Meeting and Elections

Election Officer Mr. Kanubhai Doshi declared that the following persons were elected uncontested for the year 2006.

- President - Sushil Jain
- Vice President - Sanjay Shah
- Secretary - Jatin Shah
- Joint Secretary - Sailesh Shah
- Treasurer - Ashok R. Shah
- Joint Treasurer - Kamlesh P. Shah
- Members-at-Large - Manu G. Shah, Mina A. Shah, Paresh Shah
- Youth Coordinator - Sonal Sheth
- Youth Committee - Parita Shah, Payal Vora, Nimit Mehta, Apoorva Parikh

- Board of Trustees - Manoj Dharamsi and Pravin Dand for a 2-year term.

Additionally, the following candidates were co-opted for Member-at-Large positions:

- Himanshu Mehta
- Nilesh Shah

Prior to balloting, the following persons withdrew their nominations for the various positions they had applied for (shown in parenthesis): Sanjay Shah (President), Nitesh Shah (Secretary), Jay Bhandari (Joint Secretary), Satish Shah (Treasurer), Narendra Goda (Joint Treasurer), Reema Vora (Youth Coordinator).

Your E-Mail Address

We are honored and proud to have Janak Rajani as our web master and electronic communicator. He spends many hours each week to ensure our electronic communications stays current.

Short lead-time information and last-minute changes are being informed to the members via e-mail. Eventually, we would like to send newsletters by e-mail. If you have not received any e-mail from us within last 30 days, then we do not have your correct email address. It is likely that we do not have your e-mail information, or have an outdated e-mail address for you. Please help us keeping you informed in a timely manner by informing us of your email address by sending an email message to Changes@JainSocietyDC.org. Also, we request that you visit www.Jainsocietydc.org once a week to review current information.

Our Web Site Update

The website www.JainSocietyDC.org has been updated regularly. In order to facilitate the members with an easy-to-navigate website, new menu links have been created. If you have information to share with other community members, like addition to your family, death in your family living in USA, etc. please send an email to Info@JainSocietyDC.org. If appropriate, we will share such information with our members by posting it on the website.

A link for **volunteers** to register for various activities at the Jain Center has been created. Please visit the website and register as a volunteer by clicking on "Volunteers" link on the left side menu. Please note that volunteer opportunities are available in many committees as listed at www.JainSocietyDC.org/Volunteers.htm

I am in the process of creating a secured area where the members can make changes on their membership information like address, phone number, addition of children, etc. on their own. For this purpose, I am planning to create login for each member. By using the username and password combination, you will have access to your personal information. Please send an email to Register@JainSocietyDC.org with your complete name and mailing address (to identify you as a member), and a desired username. You will get a response back within 2-3 business days with your username/password and necessary directions on how to log into the website.

For any suggestions, ideas and/or comments, feel free to either click on "Contact Us" link from the left side menu or send me an email at WebMaster@JainSocietyDC.org. We will try to implement your comments as soon as we can. Thank you for your cooperation and ongoing support!

Janak Rajani

Visiting The Temple

The Jain Center is open during scheduled programs. If you wish to visit any other time, you may enter from the door with a cipher combination lock. Please call one of Executive Committee members for the combination. To ensure highest level of security, please make sure that all doors are locked when you leave.

Pooja Committee

We encourage all of you to sponsor the performance of Snatra Pooja, Vastuk Pooja, etc. at either your home, office or at the Jain Center. Please contact Mrs. Jyoti Doshi at 301-670-6844.

Sending Donations to Overseas Non-Profit Organizations

If you need to send donation to a non-profit organization outside USA, you can transfer your donation through our Jain Society by making a tax-deductible donation to our Jain Society. Jain Society will deduct a handling fee of only 3% of your donation amount (minimum fee \$30), and issue a check on your behalf to your selected non-profit organization outside USA. Please note that a minimum handling fee of \$30 will be charged for each check written by Jain Society to the overseas non-profit organization.

Renting of Mandap, Sound System and other items:

Members may rent the Sankheda Mandap and two chairs, and sound system. Please contact Ashok or Pallavi Shah at 301-260-1264.

Condolences

We regret to inform that our member Savita Ramnik Vora (sister of our members Meeta Gangar, Mansukh Haria and Sushila Vora) passed away on January 16, 2006. She is survived by her husband Ramnik and children Amit and Chirag. We pray that her soul rest in peace, and convey our condolences to all members of her family.

We regret to inform that our member Inaxi Manubhai Shah (sister of our members Himanshu Mehta and Rupa Sheth) passed away on March 14, 2006. She is survived by her husband Manubhai (our ex-treasurer, and ex-Chairman of Trustees) and daughters Mona and Helma. We pray that her soul rest in peace, and convey our condolences to all members of her family.

Teachings of Lord Mahavir

- Every soul is independent. None depends on another.
- All souls are alike. None is superior or inferior.
- Every soul is in itself absolutely omniscient and blissful. The bliss does not come from outside.
- All human beings are miserable due to their own faults, and they themselves can be happy by correcting these faults.
- The greatest mistake of a soul is non-recognition of its real self. It can only be corrected by recognizing its real self.
- There is no separate existence of God. Everybody can attain God-hood by making supreme efforts in the right direction.
- Know thyself, recognize thyself, be immersed by thyself - You will attain Godhood.
- God is neither the creator nor the destructor of the universe. He is merely a silent observer and omniscient.
- One who, even after knowing the whole universe, can remain unaffected and unattached is God.



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SWAMI VATSALAY BHOJAN ON APRIL 22, 2006

Member's Name: _____

Member's Address: _____

Member's Phone Number: _____

Member's E-Mail address: _____

1. The following family members will attend Swami Vatsalya Bhojan:

No. of Adults and Children over 12: _____

No. of Children age 5 to12: _____

2. We wish to make a donation of \$ _____ to the Swami Vatsalya Fund.

3. We would like make following suggestions for future programs:

(Please mail this form so as to reach before April 16, 2006)
(Alternatively, you can send above information by e-mail to dinner@JainSocietyDC.org)

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- **LAVINA CHAWLA, CPA, MBA**

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FAX: 301-216-2727

E-Mail: arun@chawlaandchawlacpa.com



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

Web address: www.JainSocietyDC.org

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
FORWARDING POSTAGE GUARANTEED**

Upcoming Events for 2006

- Saturday, March 25 – Sunday March 26 Youth trip to New York
Wednesday, April 5 Ayambil Oli starts
Saturday, April 8 Ayambil at Jain Center
Saturday, April 22 Mahavir Jayanti Celebration
Wednesday, August 9 – Sunday, August 13 Shrutpragya Swamiji
Monday, August 21 – Monday, August 28 Paryushan Parva
Saturday, August 26 Swapna Ceremony
Monday, August 28 Samvatsari Pratikraman
Tuesday, August 29 – Thursday, September 7. Das Lakshan Parva
Saturday, September 9 – Sunday, September 10 Panch Teerth Yatra
Friday, September 29 Ayambil Oli starts
Sunday, October 1 Ayambil at Jain Center
Tuesday, October 3 to Saturday, October 7 Tarlaben Doshi
Sunday, October 22 Mahavir Nirvan / Nav Smaran
Thursday, November 23 Thanksgiving Day Ayambil
Sunday, December 10 Annual General Meeting and Elections