



JAIN SOCIETY OF METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON

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

April, 2016 Edition

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Janak Rajani, President

410-998-9786 or 410-415-3033

President@JainSocietyDC.org

Manna Shah, Vice President

240-498-6183

VicePresident@JainSocietyDC.org

Vishal Mehta, Secretary

240-293-5809

Secretary@JainSocietyDC.org

Monica Shah, Joint-Secretary

443-306-9955

JointSecretary@JainSocietyDC.org

Pragnesh Shah, Treasurer

301-305-4261

Treasurer@JainSocietyDC.org

Dipak Shah, Joint-Treasurer

301-793-7547

JointTreasurer@JainSocietyDC.org

Vacant, Director of Public Relations

301-748-8111

PublicRelations@JainSocietyDC.org

Megha Doshi, Director of Education

703-858-7945

Education@JainSocietyDC.org

Dimple Doshi, Director of Events

973-666-6090

Events@JainSocietyDC.org

Kamlesh P. Shah, Director of Facilities

301-933-3324

Facility@JainSocietyDC.org

Sandeep Mehta, Director of Publications

301-775-7820

Publications@JainSocietyDC.org

Hemen Gandhi, Director of Technology

703-793-3049

Technology@JainSocietyDC.org

Sahil Shah, Director of Volunteers

443-799-6437

Volunteers@JainSocietyDC.org

Paresh Shah, Chair

Past Presidents' Council

571-357-5769

PresidentsCouncil@JainSocietyDC.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dr. Sushil Jain, Chair Person

240-277-3039

ChairPerson@JainSocietyDC.org

Manoj Dharamsi, Trustee

703-620-9837

Dr. Atul Shah, Trustee

301-274-0319

Harshid Shah, Trustee

703-723-9363

Bhupesh Mehta, Trustee

240-455-4524

Paresh Shah, Trustee

571-357-5769

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jai Jinendra!

On behalf of the entire Executive Committee, I take this opportunity to thank all our members for their continued support and ongoing participation within the community.

I take this opportunity to welcome our newly elected Trustees: Dr. Atul Shah and Paresh Shah. Words cannot express our gratitude towards the departing Trustees: Pravin Dand (Chair Person) and Kanu Doshi. Thank you very much Pravinbhai and Kanubhai for your tireless efforts and selfless dedication to our Temple and our community. Also, the Board of Trustees unanimously elected Dr. Sushil Jain as its Chair Person for the calendar year 2016 and appointed Manoj Dharamsi as its Historian for the next three years.

We will celebrate Mahavir Janma Kalyanak (MJK) on Saturday, April 23rd, 2016. The MJK Planning Committee is working very hard to make it a successful event. Our Pathshala students along with some parents will perform on stage during this event. This will be an excellent program to attend and join our new generation in celebrating Bhagwan Mahavir's Janma Kalyanak by showcasing their hidden talents and treasures.

Our next Special General Body meeting will be held on Saturday, May 1st, 2016 from 9:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Cloverly Elementary School located at 800 Briggs Chaney Rd Silver Spring, MD 20905. All members are invited to this meeting. The Trustees, Temple Committee, and the Fund Raising Team will provide an update on funding plans for new Shikharbandhi Temple / Jain Center during this meeting.

It is my goal to organize one major event every quarter throughout 2016 calendar year. We kicked off 2016 with that goal in mind and recently had a very well planned and successful "Winter Social 2016" event organized by our own enthusiastic Ladies and Moms. They are also working on putting together a "Summer Picnic and Fun" event, details are mentioned later in this newsletter.

After successful Panch Tirth Yatra last year, a lot of members have inquired about the bus yatra for this year. Please note that we are currently coordinating with Jain Centers located in Pennsylvania and New Jersey area to put a detailed trip in place. We will share all updates with you, via an email with additional information, as soon as we finalize the trip.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I want to thank all volunteers for their help during our past programs. Without your dedication, selfless devotion, and spirit of volunteerism we would not be successful. I would like to remind you that the Jain Center belongs to all its members and ownership comes with certain responsibilities. I would like to encourage you, our members, to take part in our committees and various programs. Every week we have number of activities in our temple, so please come forward and donate your time, energy, ideas and enthusiasm by volunteering to help and/or organize these events. As always, we are looking forward to a large participation in all our future programs.

In any organization, there is always room for improvement to streamline and deliver better results. Your constructive comments and/or suggestions are always welcome. Please contact me at (410) 415-3033 or send me an email at President@JainSocietyDC.org.

Janak Rajani, President

Jain Society of Metropolitan Washington

A MESSAGE FROM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dear Friends, Jai Jinendra!

Spring came and is almost over, everyone is now gearing up for Mahavir Jayanti celebration at the Paint Branch High School. Our dream of building a world class Jain Center in Nations capitol is one-step closer. In April, we are scheduled for neighborhood community & respective leaders briefing on site plans. In addition, thanks to our Construction Committee, detailed blue prints for temples (6,115 sq. ft.) and Jain Center (24,009 sq. ft.) is nearly completed and will be available for your final review at the upcoming General Body Meeting, currently scheduled on Sunday, May 1st, 2016 from 9:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. See details from Mr. Arvind Shah later in this newsletter.

Together we need to raise funds so we can start the construction. In an effort to accomplish the same, our Fund Raising team has identified several Schemes, which will help our efforts. See preliminary details of various schemes elsewhere in this newsletter.

Today, I write asking for your help to assist us in carrying out our dream of building a world class Jain Center for our future generations. In last few years, many of you have provided resources to help us get started. Please spare 8-10 hours each month to help us conceptualize new ideas and develop detailed implementation plans for rest of our community to use as marketing material.

Many among us may feel challenged as to how we will achieve this dream? It is simple: step-by-step, brick by brick, it may take a little extra time, but we want to do it right. Almost all of us migrated to the US with 2-suitcases and willingness to work hard while living Jain Way of Life and do whatever it took to succeed. Well, the rest is history, look where we are and what our dreams are for our children and grandchildren. A World Class Jain Center is needed to practice and promote Jain Way of Life in every respect. PLEASE BE PART OF IT, you will make a difference in the lives of our future generations. Please contact any one of us.

Thank you in advance for your kind support.

*Sushil Jain, Chairperson
JSMW Board of Trustees*

FUND RAISING UPDATE

Nearly thirty years ago, many of you embarked on a historic effort – the establishment of a Jain Center in Metro Washington Area. By God’s grace, our center has grown over the years, and we firmly believe our best days are ahead of us.

Now, we begin an ambitious dream of **“Building Our Future Together.”** The Fund Raising (Capitol Campaign = Cash and Material goods) will fund the construction of a new 30,000 sq. ft. Jain Center to include everything we need. The Temple Committee has exercised good stewardship in planning for a total project cost that is estimated at \$10 million.

In an effort to achieve our goals, the Fund Raising team has identified several schemes. We need **donation of 8 – 10 hours of your time in next 6-8 weeks** to develop detailed guidelines, identify recognition location options and marketing materials on each for mass distribution. As a start, following schemes has been identified with ambitious goals for each:

- Founder Member
- Legacy Fund Donation
- Lottery ticket sale to do Pratishtha
- Pathway to Moksha - Bricks (various sizes)
- Marble tiles for temple wall (various sizes)
- Kalpa Vraksha (Tree of Life)
- Pillars of Strength (Woman & Men’s Pillar)
- Various Rituals and Ceremonies (Pre-Pratishtha)

- Fixed Nakro/Bharai – (guidelines, etc. done)
- Materials & goods donation from India
- Final Pratishta
- Other

To sustain our new Center, we need \$180,000 annually, this is based on benchmarking data from centers & temples our size. We can raise this, as do others, by rental income, Memorial plaques, various regular rituals and ceremonies, annual events, etc. We raise over \$100,000 annually now.

PLEASE ATTEND SPECIAL GENERAL BODY MEETING ON SUNDAY, MAY 1st to learn more details.

TEMPLE COMMITTEE UPDATE

The schematic design for the new temple is complete. This includes all disciplines - Architectural, Civil, Structural, Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing. The Construction Committee visited the Architect's office in Richmond, Virginia.

The Geotechnical Study for the new temple is complete and the report is sent to the Architect, Civil and Structural Engineer for design of foundations.

The Temple schematic design is also completed by Rajesh Sompura. Schematic design is reviewed and approved by the Construction Committee and the Temple Committee. It will now be presented to the General Body for final approval, then we will ask Architect and Sompura to start Design Development stage.

The County hearing process with the neighbors will occur in the next couple of months with the assistance of our legal counsel. Following the county hearing process, as well as acceptance of building footprint and site layout, design team will proceed with the detailed design. Dead trees impacting the neighbors will be removed.

Volunteers are needed for finalizing Telecommunications, Security and Audio Visual requirements for the new facility. Please contact Arvind Shah or Ashok Shah at your earliest convenience.

Arvind Shah, Temple Committee Chair, JSMW

Ashok R. Shah, Construction Committee Lead, JSMW

** ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS **

We are proud to announce that JSMW is now a certifying organization and has been granted the authority to administer President's Voluntary Service Awards to our volunteers. The President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) recognizes, celebrates and holds up as role models Americans making a positive impact as engaged and deeply committed volunteers. The Award enables community organizations – like JSMW – to amplify their gratitude by joining with the President of the United States to thank their most dedicated volunteers.

Various award categories include the official PVSA pin, medallion, or coin; a personalized certificate of achievement; a congratulatory letter from the President of the United States; or a combination of all of the above.

It is very critical that you track all voluntary hours and send a complete log with detailed information to President@JainSocietyDC.org email address. We will ensure that your hours are entered in the PVSA system and are tracked for reaching various milestones that qualifies you to be eligible to receive one of the awards listed above.

Answers to Crossword Puzzle:

ACROSS: 1 - Abhishek, 4 - Siddhartha, 6 – Thirty, 7 – Trishala, 9 – Jina, 10 – Tirthankara

DOWN: 2 – Buddha, 3 – Kshatriya, 5 – Chaitra, 8 - Ahimsa

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

- **New Website:** As communicated in our previous newsletter, we have formed a team of volunteers who have come forward to help us revamp our current website using the latest technologies. This team has made significant progress in building several templates for the new website in an effort to ensure that the new website is mobile friendly while preserving the attractive looks that typically are available on a larger screen. The team has started migrating content to the new website, and are currently working on a requirement where the content is posted by one individual and approved by another individual before getting posted on the new website.
- **Domain Updates:** We are happy to report that we have regained complete access for the domain name www.JSMW.org that was used more than a decade ago. It is a fully functional domain name and our new website is currently being tested out at that domain address. Due to lack of adequate administrative information for the transfer of www.JainSocietyDC.com domain address, we will be moving away from using this domain. We plan to go live with www.JainSocietyDC.org and www.JSMW.org domain addresses only and will send an email with detailed information as we get closer to the switch of domain names.
- **Software Updates:** After spending a lot of time in getting JSMW recognized as a not-for-profit organization with Microsoft, we are now approved to request and acquire almost any software from Microsoft and numerous other software vendors. As a result of this effort, we now have access to Microsoft Office 365, Skype for Business, MS-Visio to name a few. Our team has made significant progress in testing the tool and is currently in middle of implementing Skype for Business, our new platform of choice for all web conferencing needs.
- **Hardware Updates:** During the holiday season of 2015, we have purchased a high-end computer workstation, a Polycom conferencing phone system, a projector, and a scanner for our office needs at the Jain Center. Our goal is to digitize all paperwork, past invoices, past newsletters, and any other artifacts that is currently in hard copy format.
- **JSMW Cloud:** We have successfully setup JSMW Cloud (storing all files into remote machines allowing our officials to access those files from anywhere) and have setup various accounts for the Executive Committee, Trustees, Temple Committee, Construction Committee, etc. This will allow a smooth transition between outbound and incoming officials as well as ensure a seamless transfer of data between them (rather than depending on an electronic exchange of numerous files via email). The Temple Committee and our external partners (civil engineers and architects) are actively using JSMW Cloud accounts to store their drawings and large files.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- We are currently in the process of migrating our accounting software and membership information in a newer version of Quick Books accounting software. As a result of this migration, we are not able to provide all donation records for this period. Please accept our deepest apologies for any inconvenience this may cause. We will provide a cumulative list of donation records in the next newsletter. In the meantime, if you have any questions or need additional information, please send us an email at Treasurer@JainSocietyDC.org any time.
- Earlier in February, we created an automated program using Visual Studio Framework that read all records from the financial database, and transmitted a donation receipt, via an email with a PDF file attachment, to all donors for their tax deductions purpose. This automation software was solely developed by Vishal Mehta, Secretary (Executive Committee). Thank you Vishalbhai for sharing your talents!

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY PROJECT

We were planning to publish our members' directory by the end of January-2016. Several youth members had come forward and had agreed to volunteer their time by contacting our members to verify that their contact information as per our records are accurate. The youth members had started placing calls to gather the information, however, they ran into several roadblocks when our members did not return their calls after several attempts. Unfortunately, due to lack of responses from a handful of our members, the members' directory will not be published until further notice. A big thank you to all the youth members who stepped up and volunteered their time.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. **Mahavir Janma Kalyanak: Saturday, April 23rd, 2016**

On Saturday, April 23rd, 2016, starting from 1:30 p.m., we will be celebrating Bhagwan Mahavir Swami's Janma Kalyanak, a very auspicious day for all Jains. Our celebration will feature stage performances by our children, followed by Swami Vatsalya Bhojan. Please RSVP your family by visiting our website (www.JainSocietyDC.org) and clicking on "Swami Vatsalya Bhojan" link under the "Registration" menu option located on the left.

Note: *RSVP will end on midnight, April 19th, 2016 with no exceptions. Also, please enter a valid email address during the registration process. A confirmation email will be sent to the entered email id for your records of successful submission.*

When: *Saturday, April 23rd, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.*

Where: *Paint Branch High School*

Address: *14121 Old Columbia Pike Burtonsville, MD 20866*

RSVP: *By April 19th, 2016*

We are seeking sponsors for the Mahavir Jayanti Swami Vatsalya Bhojan (dinner). You can sponsor the Swami Vatsalya Bhojan by donating a minimum amount of \$101 (Sadharmic Bhakti Bronze). Other sponsorship options include \$251 (Silver), \$501 (Gold), \$1,001 (Platinum), and \$1,501 (Diamond) levels.

If we cannot get enough sponsors, members submitting their RSVP by the deadline (April 19th, 2016) will be required to make a minimum contribution of \$10.00 per person (ages 5 and above). 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 contributing a minimum of \$12.00 per person (ages 5 and above).

In an effort to raise donations and encourage your timely participation at the event, we have planned raffle prizes this year. Every member of the family who checks-in at the registration desk by no later than 2:30 p.m. and has sent their RSVP before the deadline will receive one free raffle ticket. The attendee must collect a raffle ticket from the registration desk for him/her only. Attendees checking-in after 2:30 p.m. can still participate in the raffle drawing by purchasing tickets for a nominal price of \$5 per ticket. Also, additional tickets (no limits) can be purchased for a nominal price of \$5 per ticket any time during the event. All the winners will be picked before the end of the program. Winners must be present when called upon, be able to show their ticket to verify their participation and to claim their prize.

!!!! Raffle prizes include a Samsung Galaxy Tab, Amazon Fire Tablet, \$50 and \$25 gift cards from Target!!!!

2. **Mahavir Janma Kalyanak video & photo set DVD**

Stage program video and photos set will be available for a small donation of \$15. The DVD request forms will be available at the registration desk during the event. Orders will be taken till May 1st, 2016.

We would like to thank Manohar Hegde, Manan Shah, Bhavesh Shah & Rajesh Rao for donating Videography and Photography expertise; time, recording, editing, copying and also providing all the raw materials for DVD production. They are preparing the DVD for this event. All proceeds from this sale will be used towards our Pathshala.

Please order your copies to capture these memorable moments and support our Pathshala.

3. **Bhavna with Nayanbhai Sanghvi of Tapovan, India: Friday, April 29th**

A Bhavna will be held on Friday, April 29th, 2016 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at our Jain Temple. There will be Swami Vatsalya dinner starting at 5:00 p.m. sponsored by the Snatra Pooja group. If you are planning to attend, please RSVP no later than noon, Thursday, April 28th, by sending an email to Shefali Dalal (ShefaliPDalal@Yahoo.com) or Nayana Mehta (Nayana311@Yahoo.com).

4. Grand Snatra Mahotsav with Nayanbhai Sanghvi of Tapovan, India: Sat., 4/30/16

The Grand Snatra Pooja will be held on Saturday, April 30th, 2016 from 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at our Jain Temple. The Pooja will start at 9:30 a.m. sharp followed by Swami Vatsalya lunch. We are looking for sponsors for the Swami Vatsalya lunch. Anyone interested in sponsoring, please send us an email. If you are planning to attend, please RSVP no later than noon, Thursday, April 28th, by sending an email to Shefali Dalal (ShefaliPDalal@Yahoo.com) or Nayana Mehta (Nayana311@Yahoo.com).

5. Shetrunjay Bhav Yatra with Nayanbhai Sanghvi of Tapovan, India: Sunday, May 1st

The Shetrunjay Bhav Yatra will be held on Sunday, May 1st, 2016 from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at our Jain Temple. With Shri Nayanbhai's help, our Sangh will be going on a VIRTUAL Bhaav Yatra of Shatrunjay. Shri Nayanbhai will explain to us how the name PALITANA was given and why this place is so special. He will share with us anything and everything we want to know about Palitana. Our hope is that after this Bhav Yatra, our understanding of Palitana will change forever and we will get even more out of the Yatra next time we get a chance to visit.

6. Special General Body Meeting: Sunday, May 1st, 2016

On Sunday, May 1st, 2016, we will have a Special General Body Meeting starting from 9:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Cloverly Elementary School located at 800 Briggs Chaney Rd Silver Spring, MD 20905 (where our Pathshala classes are held).

Following will be the agenda for the meeting:

- Approval of the minutes of the Annual General Body Meeting held on December 13th, 2015,
- Review and Approval of updated designs, funding plans for new Shikharbandhi Temple / Jain Center, and
- Any other items brought forward with prior notice (mainly due to time constraints).

Please Note: In an effort to establish more frequent communications with our members, we will be organizing a general body meeting every 2 months. Tentative dates are as follows: Sunday 17th July, Sunday 18th Sept.

Re-confirmation for date, time, location and agenda will be communicated via JSMW email distributions. Please make sure JSMW secretary has your current email address.

7. D.C. Central Kitchen: Saturday, May 14th, 2016

On Saturday, May 14th, 2016, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., we will be practicing the act of Ahimsa and Jiv Daya by participating in D.C. Kitchen event. For last 10 years, more than 50 volunteers have joined us for this community service project. Once again, JSMW is planning to *prepare vegetarian meals for approximately 4,500 needy people in the D.C. Metro area*. This means 4,500 individuals will be eating JAIN meals on this day (and not eating meat), saving the lives of countless animals (giving them Abhay Daan).

Dress Code: Kurta, Salwar/ Long Pants, Shirt, Shoes, No Sandals. No exposed mid-riff

Address: The D.C. Central Kitchen, 425 Second Street NW, Washington DC, 20001

Phone: 202.234.0707 Ext. 108

We will save hundreds of lives by serving them JAIN FOOD. We talk and preach about our Jain Principle of Ahimsa (Non Violence) and here is the opportunity to put it in practice.

This is an excellent opportunity to do a community service project, publicize Jainism to the mainstream, and volunteer services directly to the needy in our own community. We will be collecting names of about 45 to 50 dedicated volunteers to help us prepare and pack the food. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Bhupesh Mehta (Bhupesh@BhupeshMehta.com) at 240.455.4524 or Nilesh Shah at 410.531.6218. All volunteers must be 12 (or more) years of age.

We are in desperate need of donations for this event. Based on our participation in such events in the past, we need to raise around \$3,000 in donations. We recommend that you come forward and donate for this cause generously. Please make your donation payable to "Jain Society of Metropolitan Washington" and please mention in the memo field: "Jiv Daya - DC Kitchen." We encourage you to mail your donations (\$21, \$51, \$101, \$151, \$501... any amount is welcome) to our mailing address: P.O. Box 4548, Silver Spring, MD 20914.

Note: *If you are in school, we can provide up to 5 hours of community service certificate to our youth to help them with their school community service requirements.*

8. Bhaktamar Healing Session by Dr. Manju Jain: Sunday, May 22nd, 2016

We are in middle of finalizing a hands on session, on Sunday, May 22nd, 2016 (times to be announced via email), with Dr. Manju Jain, who is a spiritual healer, and works through the Jaina method of curing through the chanting of shlokas and mantras. Her immense faith in spiritual healing has cured incurable diseases - defying logic & science. A number of doctors have endorsed her unique style of spiritual healing and their miraculous results. She has worked successfully on illnesses such as cancer, psoriasis, kidney failure, tuberculosis, skin problems and other ailments. We are hoping that you will attend this session in an effort to learn the miraculous benefits of chanting Bhaktamar Stotras and Dr. Jain's personal experience with the extraordinary powers of the Bhaktamar Shlokas and their Ridhis and Mantras. Please be on the lookout of an email with additional information regarding this session.

9. Health Information and Education: Sunday, June 5th, 2016

On Sunday, June 5th, 2016, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, we will be host a medical camp, focusing on health information and education, at our Jain Center. During this event, we will provide assistance with measuring the blood pressure, checking BMI, vision screening, ENT, Grip Strength test, and much more. We request that you take full advantage of this medical camp and that you spread this message to your friends and family. Despite the fact that you may have health insurance that covers such health screening only once a year or every other year, you can still get your health screening done at this event. We are currently working on all the logistics and will send additional information as we get closer to the event.

10. Summer Picnic and Fun: Saturday, June 18th, 2016

On Saturday, June 18th, 2016 (times to be announced via email), we will be hosting our annual summer picnic at Lake Fairfax Park located at 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive Reston, VA 20190. This is a great park with great facilities: 20-acres lake, the Water Mine Family Swimming Hole, boat rentals, carousel, athletic fields, a playground, restrooms, trails and a skate park. The Watermine is the big draw of this park: it features tubing on the Rattlesnake Lazy River, a tot pool at Tenderfoot Pond, slides, tunnels, and interactive play features designed for young children. We expect this to be a **fun-tastic** day with activities for all age groups!

11. YJA Convention 2016 in Los Angeles, CA: Friday, July 1-4, 2016

Education and knowledge has historically proven to be one of the cornerstones of Jainism and the future of Jainism depends on its youth being well versed and knowledgeable.

From July 1st – 4th, YJA Convention Committee will be hosting 650 youth from all over the nation for their biennial Convention, theme is Young Jains: Agents of Change. From listening to thought-provoking speakers to engaging in interactive sessions, attendees will come away with a greater understanding on what it takes to use Jainism to create social impact. Please visit the site at: <https://convention.yja.org/> to obtain more information.

12. Jain Society Panch Tirth Yatra: July 30-31st, 2016

Due to much demand and grand success of Panch Tirth Yatra from 2015, we have already started planning for another Panch Tirth Yatra, currently scheduled for July 30-31st, 2016 weekend. We are currently planning to visit various Jain Centers in the Pennsylvania and New Jersey area: Jain Temple of Atlantic City (NJ), Samarpan Jain Sangh in Philadelphia (PA), Siddhachalam in NJ (overnight stay), Jain Center of Allentown (PA), and Jain Center of South Central Pennsylvania (PA). As an added attraction, we will make a stop at the VRAJ Temple.

While we are working on detailed logistics for this Yatra, we encourage you to put these dates on your calendar and be on the lookout of an email with additional details.

13. Paryushan Parva: Monday, September 5th, 2016

This year Samvatsari falls on Labor Day, Monday, September 5th, 2016. We are planning to have the Swapna Ceremony either on Sunday, August 28th or Sunday, September 4th - depending on the school availability. We will send additional details once the logistics are secured and in place. Dr. Jitendra Shah will grace the occasion this year.

14. Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) & Elections: October, 2016

Per the Article-V of Jain Society's Constitution, "the annual meeting shall be held generally during the months of October/November/December with a prior written notice of at least 35 days to all members." This year, we plan to call in the AGM during the first half of October month. This will assist us in facilitating a smooth transition from departing officials to the newly appointed / incoming officials. Also, during this years' Election Cycle, all members of the Executive Committee as well as two positions from the Board of Trustees' will be subject to elections.

ON-GOING EVENTS

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

- Bi-weekly Sunday School Pathshala from September to June. Please contact our Director of Education, Megha Doshi at education@JainSocietyDC.org or (703) 200-3080.
- Adult religious classes are also held in parallel with Sunday school. Please contact Dr. Atul Shah at 301.274.0319, or Pravin Dand at 301.384.3367 for more information.
- Kesar/Chandan Poojan each Saturday - at 10:00 a.m.
- Snatra Pooja on 2nd Sunday of each moth – at 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch.
- Dev Shastra Guru Pooja on 4th Sunday of each month – at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon followed by lunch.
- Namokar Mantra Jaap followed by Kesar Pooja on last Saturday of each month - at 9:00 a.m.

PAST EVENTS: A Brief Synopsis

→ Winter Social 2016: Saturday, February 20th, 2016 at Clarion Inn Hotel

It is our pleasure to report back to you all that we had a very pleasant, joyous, and successful "Winter Social 2016" event, first ever hosted by the JSMW, on Saturday, February 20th, 2016 at the Clarion Inn Hotel in College Park, MD, conveniently located between Virginia and Maryland. This event was organized by enthusiastic and energetic Ladies of the Society. The event received very positive response, with the first 150 tickets being sold out in the first 10 days, and thereafter, due to overwhelming demand for more tickets, which the organizers had to go back to the drawing board to figure out if there was a way to accommodate at least another 100 people.

This event was not possible without the selfless dedication, contribution, hard work, and tireless efforts put in by many individuals. Specifically, we would like to thank and recognize Dimple Doshi, Manan Shah, Hemen Gandhi, Pavan Zaveri in addition to Ladies Group; consisting of Bela Gandhi, Jhalak Mehta, Manna Shah, Meeta Sogani, Mily Mehta, Meenal (Pavan) Zaveri, Monali Shah, Monica Shah, Rachna Shah, Ripal Shah, Savita Jain, Shilpa (Paresh) Shah, Shilpa (Manoj) Shah, Shraddha Jain, Swati Jain, and Keyuri Rajani. We apologize if we have missed thanking any one in person or listing their names below. Michchhami Dukkadam from the bottom of our heart.

Listed below is the summary of the "Winter Social 2016" event:

- This event was attended by 186 adults above 16 years, 51 children between ages 3 and 10 years, and 22 kids between ages 11 and 15 years.
- The theme was "Bollywood Meets Hollywood;" with infants to octogenarians in attendance, 100% Jain and Vegan food, and Chauvihar accommodated. The scrumptious unlimited, all-you-can-eat menu was "Bombay Street food," and drinks, for example: Papdi Chaat, Tomato Soup, Bhaji Pav, Handvo, Sandwich Dhokla, Paneer Chilli, Biriyani, Mango Lassi, Tea, Coffee, Sodas, Gulab Jamun, and Pista/Mango Kulfi...just to name a few.
- In keeping with the theme of Valentine's Day and Jainism, Chocolate Roses (not real flowers) were pre-ordered, and attached with a personalized message, and hand delivered at the event to the attendees' loved ones.

- The audience was treated to an hour long performances by our members of all ages, from toddlers to youth, adults and senior citizens. Who knew we had so much talent in our Society? Their performances can be viewed on YouTube at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSE2YQTtwP7uwg0QzZoXsoignUoSDnRyu>
- There was a photo booth set up, where professional quality photographs of the attendees were taken. To view these pictures, please visit this link: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/mananbhai/8X4GQH>.
- A live DJ played music throughout the event, with open dance floor, concluding the event.
- This event was fully financed and paid through ticket sales, donations and sale of chocolate roses.
- There was a tremendous positive feedback to this event from the members who had attended, as well as members who could not attend, expressing a regret to have missed this event, and demanding more such gatherings be organized. To view some of the feedback and suggestions received during the event, please visit this link: <http://www.JainSocietyDC.org/documents/WinterSocial-All-Feedback-Combined.pdf>.
- Examples of positive feedback received during the event included comments like: "We as a Samaj, made a history today 02/20/2016. Kids, Sr. Citizen, Young Couples, all enjoyed a lot and we need more events like this, it's not only bringing the community together, but all members are now close to each other," "Wonderfully planned event! Had so much fun to see all ages people enjoying together. This will make our community strengthened. I would like to see more of these kind of events.....Arranging for Chauvihar is commendable. Similarly distributing chocolate roses instead of real roses shows how you tried to maintain Jain principles." and, "I was amazed that I could do chovihar and still eat my dinner before 5:50 pm."
- The ChairPerson, Board of Trustees, Dr. Sushil Jain, spoke on behalf of JSMW officials, thanking the Ladies Group for organizing such a wonderful event and tasking them to bring forth more events such as this one to bring the Society members together.
- In closing, the Ladies Group is in the middle of planning a "Summer Picnic and Fun" event, currently scheduled for Saturday, June 18th, 2016 at Lake Fairfax Park located at 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive Reston, VA 20190. Please be on the lookout for additional details via a separate email as we get closer to the day of event.

➔ **Rang Rangilo Gujarati Drama: Saturday, December 5th, 2015 at High Point High School**

On Saturday, December 5th, 2015, we hosted a very successful, hilarious, mystical, family comedy Gujarati drama "Rang Rangilo Gujarati" at High Point High School located at 3601 Powder Mill Rd Beltsville, MD 20705. This drama was filled with comedy, love, suspense and romance, and served as an excellent year-end opportunity for networking within our community. This table-top comedy drama was directed and written by Indraneil Joshi and performed by both Indraneil Joshi and his wife Maya Joshi. We take this opportunity to thank and recognize the following volunteers who were instrumental in the success of this event: Aruna Shah, Bela Gandhi, Bijal Shah, Bhupendra Mehta, Dimple Doshi, Harshid Shah, Kanta Dharamsi, Kirit Udeshi, Mitul Shah, Savita Jain, and Sharad Doshi.

During this event, we had sold 63 VIP tickets (\$50), 206 Premium tickets (\$30), and 55 Regular tickets (\$20). This event was fully financed and paid through ticket sales, general donations and sale of snacks during the break.

➔ **Annual General Body Meeting & Elections: Sunday, December 13th, 2015**

On Sunday, December 13th, 2015, we had elections after the Annual General Body meeting conducted at Cloverly Elementary School located at 800 Briggs Chaney Rd Silver Spring, MD 20905 (where our Pathshala classes are held). For the two Board of Trustees positions, the Election Committee had received four nominations from Pravin Dand, Sharad Doshi, Dr. Atul Shah, and Paresch Shah.

During the elections, we had a huge turnout from our membership - for the first time ever in the history of JSMW, we had 174 members who casted their votes. After the voting process concluded, the Election Committee, in the presence of one representative from each nominee, counted the votes and certified two nominees, solely based on the maximum votes received.

On behalf of the entire Election Committee, I take the pleasure to announce that Dr. Atul Shah and Paresh Shah received the maximum votes and are elected for 3-years to the Board of Trustees positions. Furthermore, Manoj Dharamsi, Dr. Sushil Jain, Bhupesh Mehta, and Harshid Shah will continue to serve in the Board of Trustees until their term expires per the revised Constitution.

We take this opportunity to welcome and congratulate the two newly elected Trustees and also thank the departing two Trustees, Pravin Dand and Kanu Doshi, for their hard work, excellent support and dedication.

Also, I extend my thanks to Kalpana Hegde and Allap Shah for assisting me during this very important election process. The election cycle went by smoothly due to their tireless efforts and careful planning. A big thank you!

Shilpa (Manoj) Shah
2015 Election Committee Chair

→ **Diwali Mithai Competition: Sunday, November 15th, 2015**

The Pathshala organized a “Best Mithai” competition as part of Diwali 2015 celebrations. All members were requested to join the Pathshala families on this joyous occasion of Diwali by taking part in this competition that was scheduled for Sunday, November 15th at Cloverly Elementary School (800 Briggs Chaney Rd Silver Spring, MD 20905) where our Pathshala classes are held.

ONLY Homemade sweets were allowed for this competition. Summary and Highlights of this event are listed below:

- We had a great turnout of 28 participants in this first time ever competition.
- I take this opportunity to formally thank our dedicated judges (Asha Jain, Harshada Patani, and Palak Sanghvi) who went out of their way to eat so much sugar in one day and decide on the best three Mithai's.
- A big thank you to our gift card sponsors: Harshada and Amit Patani.
- The first prize (\$51 Target gift card) was won by Minal Shah (Boondi Tart), second prize (\$31 Target gift card) was won by Julie Lakhani (Cheesy MohanKhand Cake), and third prize (\$21 Target gift card) was won by Savita Jain (Gujjiya with a Twist). Congratulations to our prize winners!
- Links for pictures of all the Mithai's and recipes of three winning Mithai's were distributed via a follow up email.

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JSMW reserves the right to use any photograph/video taken at any event sponsored by JSMW, including but not limited to Pathshala, without the expressed written permission of those included within the photograph/video. JSMW may use the photograph/video in publications or other media material produced, used or contracted by JSMW including but not limited to: brochures, invitations, books, newspapers, magazines, television, websites, etc. To ensure the privacy of individuals and children, images will not be identified using full names or personal identifying information without written approval from the photographed subject, parent or legal guardian. A person attending a JSMW event who does not wish to have their image recorded for distribution should make their wishes known to the photographer, and/or the event organizers. By participating in a JSMW event or by failing to notify JSMW your desire to not have your photograph used by JSMW, you are agreeing to release, defend, hold harmless and indemnify JSMW from any and all claims involving the use of your picture or likeness. Any person or organization not affiliated with JSMW may not use, copy, alter or modify JSMW photographs, graphics, videography or other, similar reproductions or recordings without the advance written permission of an authorized designee from JSMW. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. Should you have any questions or need additional clarification, please feel free to email President@JainSocietyDC.org.

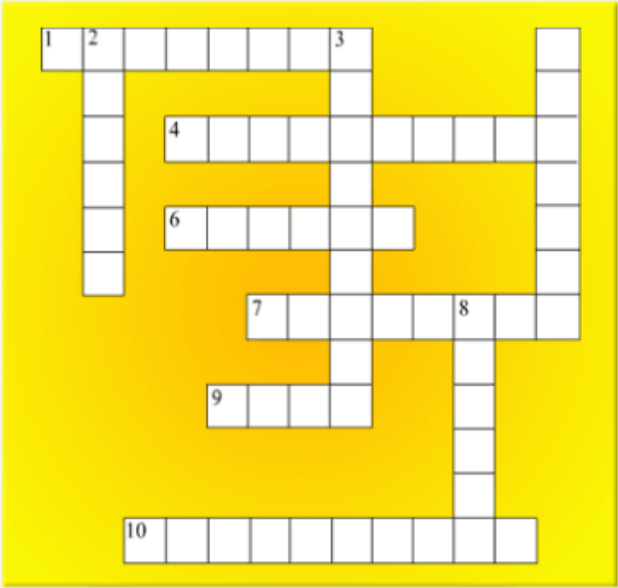
DID YOU KNOW?

The Young Jains of America (YJA) Board comprises of incredibly talented and skilled Jain young adults who passionately volunteer to make a difference for Jain youth from ages 14-29 through a local, regional, and national events. Since 1991, for the past 24 years, YJA has served over 10,000 members. YJA's mission is to be recognized nationally and internationally as an umbrella Jain youth organization for establishing a network for and among youth to share Jain heritage and religion.

We are extremely happy to share with you that Ravi Doshi (son of Sharad & Sonal Doshi), Juhi Hegde (daughter of Manohar and Kalpana Hegde), and Kayuri Shah (daughter of Paresh & Shilpa Shah) have been selected in the YJA 2015-16 Executive Board in various capacities. Congratulations to Ravi, Juhi, and Kayuri on your selection and to your proud parents as well! Way to Go!

MAHAVIR JAYANTI CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Test your knowledge of Jain Religion and Philosophy by solving the crossword puzzle below. Answers can be found on bottom of Page 3.



Across

1. The ceremonial bath given to the the idol of Mahavira on Mahavir Jayanti.
4. Father of Lord Mahavira
6. Lord Mahavira renounced the material world at this age
7. Mother of Lord Mahavira
9. The term "Jaina" has been derived from this word
10. Lord Mahavira was the 24th

Up/Down

2. Lord Mahavira was a contemporary of this great sage and founder of a great religion
3. Mahavir was a member of this caste
5. The month in which Mahavir Jayanti is observed
8. The main principle of Jainism is non--violence or _____

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 20905 • **PHONE** (301) 236-4466

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 4548, SILVER SPRING, MD 20914 • **WEB:** WWW.JAINSOCIETYDC.ORG

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2016 Calendar of Events

Date	Program
Saturday, April 23 rd	Mahavir Janma Kalyanak at Paint Branch High School (1:30 p.m. onwards)
Friday, April 29 th	Bhavna with Nayanbhai Sanghvi (6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.)
Saturday, April 30 th	Grand Snatra Mahotsav with Nayanbhai Sanghvi (9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.)
Sunday, May 1 st	Special General Body Meeting at Cloverly Elementary School (9:45 a.m. onwards)
Sunday, May 1 st	Shetrunjay Bhav Yatra with Nayanbhai Sanghvi (2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.)
Saturday, May 14 th	D.C. Kitchen (8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.)
Sunday, May 22 nd	Bhaktamar Healing Session by Dr. Manju Jain (Time to be announced)
Sunday, June 5 th	Health Information and Education (9:00 a.m. to Noon)
Saturday, June 18 th	Summer Picnic and Fun (Time to be announced)
Friday, July 1 st – Monday, July 4 th	YJA Convention 2016 at Los Angeles, CA
Saturday-Sunday July 30-31 st	Jain Society Panch Tirth Yatra to Pennsylvania & New Jersey
Sun, Aug, 28 th – Mon, Sep. 5 th	Paryushan Parva with Dr. Jitendra Shah
Tue, Sep 6 th – Thur, Sep 15 th	Daslakshan Parva
Sunday in October	Annual General Body Meeting and 2016 Elections
Sunday, October 30 th	Diwali
Sunday every 8 weeks, Dates TBD	Recurring General Body Meeting

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