

Jain Center of Minnesota

March 2008

www.jaincentermn.org



2008 Executive Committee

President

Sushila Shah (651) 636-9833

president@jaincentermn.org

Secretary

Naveen Jain (612) 834-0536

secretary@jaincentermn.org

Treasurer

Bhavin Shah (763) 218-0035

treasurer@jaincentermn.org

Past President

Dharmesh Shah (952) 445-8581

pastpresident@jaincentermn.org

Members at Large

Pankaj Jain

members1@jaincentermn.org

Rahul Shah (651) 739-8066

members2@jaincentermn.org

JAINA Delegate

Ram Gada (612) 788-2566

jainadelegate@jaincentermn.org

Youth representative

Richie Jain

youthrepresentative@jaincentermn.org

Web Master

Nimesh Chheda

nimesh.chheda@gmail.com

Jai Jinendra!

It is my pleasure and honor to serve as the president of JCM for 2008. I look forward to do my best to facilitate and set the pace for the future generations as well as JCM's future.

I would like to congratulate 2007 Executive Committee members, Pratistha Committees, volunteers and the whole community for their hard work and to celebrate the milestone event of Jain Pratistha Mahotsav. Although each of us practice Jainism in our own way, I was amazed to see so many families come together to celebrate the opening ceremony of Jain temple. No matter how we practice and believe in Jain faith, recent events depicted our solidarity.

During my presidency, I would like to work with the whole community. My goal is to formulate a strategic plan that will guide JCM in future. This plan will outline how we all can work together to make JCM strong organization. Every successful organization is guided by a strategic plan. We can devise a strategic plan to chart our course for the future by working together.

We also need to review our past activities and use our combined talents and efforts to provide tools for the future generation.

I have an excellent team of people in 2008 Executive committee members, who are dedicated to accomplish and fulfill the mission and goals of JCM. We have an exciting time ahead of us, and we need everyone's support to make JCM strong and successful.

I and my committee members look forward to serving you all this year, and will appreciate the support from each member of the community.

Don't forget the wisdom of saying "United we stand, Divided we fall."

Thank You,

Sushila Shah

)()()

Parasparopgraho Jivanam

All life is bound together by mutual support and interdependence

)()()

2008- Calendar of Events

Mahavir Jayanti Celebrations on April 20th, 2008 at Hindu Mandir between 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Satsang & Pooja on Saturday May 10, 2008 at Hindu Temple

Pooja TBD (Kavita Jain, Manisha Shah)

Chaitya Paripati to Milwaukee from Saturday 06/07/08 to Sunday 06/08/08 at Milwaukee Jain Temple

We are planning to do the Chaitya Paripati in coordination with Milwaukee Jain Sangh. More details are yet to come after we have detailed talks with Milwaukee Jain Sangh.

Jain Temple Dhaja Ceremony at Hindu Temple on Saturday July 19th, 2008 between 10:00am to 2:00 pm

JCM Picnic on Saturday August 16th, 2008 at Eden Prairie Park (Flying Cloud) 5:30pm to 8:30pm

Jain Paryushan Pratikraman on Wednesday August 27th 2008.

This will be the First day of Jain Paryushan.
Location: Open, Looking for Volunteer.

Mahavir Swapna Celebration at Hindu Temple Auditorium on Saturday August 30th 2008 between 2:00pm to 5:00pm

Samvantsari on Wednesday September 2nd 2008 at Hindu Temple Auditorium between 5:30pm to 8:30pm

Das Lakshana on Sunday September 14th 2008 at Homeward Hills Park, Eden Prairie between 10am to 12:30pm

Satsang Meeting on October 19th 2008
- Bharat & Anu Jain's Family - H (952)828-6883

Diwali Nirvan Pooja at Hindu Temple on Saturday November 1st 2008

Annual Meeting/General body on Sunday December 16th 2008
- Ayush & Shalini Jain's Family – H (763)420-7409

Prayer and Discussion Meetings Schedule on 3rd Sunday of every month at 11:00AM

You are invited and encouraged to attend the JCM's monthly prayer and discussion meetings.

JCM meetings are generally held on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Please do inform the host via email or phone, if you are planning to attend. You are also requested to arrive on time. The following format will be followed.

11:00 – 11:10 Prayer

11:10 – 12:20 Discussion

12:20 – 12:30 Aarti

♦♦♦♦

Time to pay your 2008 Annual Membership dues!

Check payable to **“Jain Center of Minnesota.”**

Please send your check to:

Bhavin Shah

3255 Coachman Rd, Apt# 309

Eagan, MN 55121

The membership dues are as follows:

Individual: \$ 30

Family: \$ 50

Lifetime: \$300

- **We encourage you to become life member.**

♦♦♦♦

Monthly Lectures on Jainism At Hindu Mandir

On the last Sunday of each month, Shri Ram Gada shares his knowledge of Jainism with the Hindu Mandir congregation. His lectures are always on some aspect of the Jain philosophy, and are given in English.

They last for about 1 hour and begin at 10:45 AM at the Hindu Mandir. Everyone is encouraged to attend these lectures.

Mahavir Jayanti Celebrations @ Hindu Mandir on April 20th 2008

JCM will be celebrating "Mahavir Jayanti" on Sunday, April 20th, 2008 from 10:00 AM onwards at Hindu Mandir. Please mark your calendar.

Place: **Hindu Mandir, 10530 Troy Ln N, Maple Grove, MN 55311**

Date & Time: **Sunday, April 20th 2008 @ 10:00 am – 2:00 pm**

Directions:

1. Take **I494/I694 to I94 West** toward St. Cloud
2. From **I94 West**., Take **exit 213**
3. After taking the exit 213, keep to the **right**,
4. Take a **right at the ramp** exit, Go 1 Block,
5. Follow the Signs to **CR 30 West** (Need to make a Right Turn).
6. Stay on **CR 30 West**, (Go past Target/Walmart) to CR101 (Traffic Light) and make a **right on to CR101 North** (Traffic Lights).
7. Go slow, Spot a Church on the left, go past it and make a right on to **101st Ave N**
8. Make a **Left on to Troy Lane**. The site is at the dead end of Troy Ln

We are going to have some cultural activities on this special occasion, if you are interested or want to perform any activity than please contact at the earliest to: Anu Jain (952-828-6883 anujain04@yahoo.com) or Avni Dhalgara (763-792-4425 dhalgara@cs.com) with all the information (participant's name, parents name & contact#, type of activity and approximate time to perform.). There is no age restriction. So please encourage your kids to come on the stage or even you can also perform!

Proposed Agenda for the celebration:

- Celebrations begins with Prayer
- Cultural activities
- Speech from Shri Ram Gada
- Aarti & Mangal Divo
- Swamivatsalya (lunch) in cafeteria

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Jain Mandir Sewa:**

This is our temple and it is our responsibility to do Pooja at least in the weekend if not every day. Please come forward, and sign up on any weekend and forward your information to Naveen Jain @ jain.center.mn@gmail.com. Dharmesh Shah has developed the procedure and he is willing to mentor who would like to learn pooja.

2. **Jain Pathshala:**

Manisha Shah is continuing the Jain Pathshala in Shakopee for the young kids (5 years or older). For the convenience of the parents Hetal Shah is conducting another Pathshala in Maple Grove. We thank both Manisha & Hetal Shah for their time & dedication to the community. Pathshala is always held first Sunday of every month from 10:00 AM to Noon. Please contact Manisha @ (952) 445-8581 and Hetal @ (763) 420-5733 for additional details.

3. **Committees Appointments:**

Education: Shalini Jain, Hetal Shah
Food: Neha Desai, Swati Jain, Tejal Shah
Cultural: Anu Jain, Avni Dhalgara

4. **Jain Young conference:**

The 2008 Young Jains of America Biennial National Convention on July 3rd- 6th in Lincolnshire, IL @ The Lincolnshire Marriott for Youth ages 14 through 29 (birth years 1979 – 1994). For Jain youth interested in the Jain Way of Life to engage in understanding the JWOL through morning meditation/yoga, five day-time sessions (two-days), variety of keynote speakers, social events, and an opportunity network with Jain Youth from all over North America and the world - from Los Angeles to Boston and from London to Mumbai.

5. Pope's visit:

H. E. Pope Benedict has invited JAINA representatives to meet him on Thursday, April 17, 2008 in Washington, D.C. As part of his "Religions Working for Peace" mission, he has invited five faith representatives from Buddhist, Hindu, Islam, Jain, and Jewish to meet, greet, listen, and address.

JAINA has invited each Jain Center to send the short message of Mahavir's peace. All messages which will be compiled in a book which will be presented to Pope as a gift. JCM has sent the following message:

"Jain Center of Minnesota warmly welcomes His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI on his visit to USA.

Let us come together with Catholicism and other pluralistic religions of the world to spread the message of Lord Mahavir who preached the path of Peace, Ahimsa (nonviolence), Anekant (equality) which is the unique contribution of Jainism to the world community"

6. JAINA Liaison office in Mumbai:

JAINA now has a liaison office in Mumbai. The All India Svetamber Sthanakwasi Jain Conference (Mumbai) has generously awarded this office space to JAINA at no cost. The Liaison office will be very useful in assisting humanitarian and educational efforts of JAINA in India. The office will ease the dissemination of JAINA publications and news in India, and perform various administrative tasks at a greatly reduced cost. JAINA is grateful to AISSJC for their noble gesture.

7. United Nations(ECOSOC):

It is with great pride I wish you all to know that 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), a New York-based international organization 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? JAINA now has 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 Goals.

♦♦♦♦

JCM is looking for volunteers so please contact us if you can help in anyway. All participation is most welcome, greatly appreciated and duly recognized!

♦♦♦♦

To reduce the paper/printing cost and fast & effective communication, JCM prefers to use the email as a media to server the community. 95% of the total communication is thru electronic media (website / email). So we highly recommend & request you to send your email address to Naveen Jain at

jain.center.mn@gmail.com