



JAIN CENTER OF GREATER BOSTON

Right Faith, Right Knowledge, Right Conduct

March 2010

www.jcgb.org

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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President's Report ...

Jai Jinendra!

The JCGB Executive Committee wishes everyone a happy New Year 2010!!

After a long harsh winter, beautiful spring is right around corner.

As we ring in a New Year, EC continue to work hard with determination and commitment to serve our community. It is most exciting time for our center as our dream has come true. We have thought of having big facility of our own for many years where we can expand our activities.

I outlined plans for our center during Diwali function last year. The formation of the Renovation Committee was announced. EC, Board & Renovation Committee had series of meetings to build strategy based on member inputs / suggestions. We divided our future plans to be executed in 3 phases. The details were communicated to member in January. At present our focus attention is on Phase I.

.....(Continued on page 4)

Volunteers needed
If you can help
Please contact Sanjay Shah
sanjay.shah@charter.net

Mark your Calendar

March 27 th 2010	Mahavir Jayanti Celebration
June 26 th , 27 th 2010	Inauguration of new property Murti Uthapan and Sthapan
June 28 th 2010	Dwar Pravesh and Pratham Pakshal

Event Calendar

All the events are at the Jain Center unless otherwise mentioned.

- Mahavir Jayanti** Saturday, March 27th, 2010
3:00pm at 15 Cedar St.
Dinner at 556 Nichols St.
- Murti Uthapan** Saturday, June 26th, 2010
- Murthi Sthapan** Sunday, June 27th, 2010
- Picnic** Sunday, August 1st, 2010
TBD
- Pathshala Puja** Sunday, September 5th, 2010
- Paryushana** September 5th – 12th, 2010
- Daslakshana** September 12th – 22nd 2010
- Kshamawani Program** September 25th, 2010
- Diwali Program** November 6th, 2010

Monthly Puja/Bhavna

- 1st Sunday Pathshala**
Contact Person
Mamta Mehta, Pathshala Director
508-543-5131
- 2nd Sunday Bhavna**
Contact Person
Mita Shah 781-449-3297
Looking for another volunteer
- 3rd Sunday Snatra Puja**
Contact Person
Sudhirbhai Shah 508-660-9683
- 4th Sunday Dev Shastra Guru Puja**
Contact Person
Raniben Jain: 781-278-9851

Youth Events

Please contact Youth Representative Naman Jain (namanjain@gmail.com)

Swetamber Panchang

As you know pancham (5th), Aatham (8th), Choudas (14th), Aamas etc are auspicious tithis in Jain Panchang. People try to observe tapasya according to our capacity. There are times we don't have Panchang available to follow this tithis. Our senior member Dineshbhai Dalal has graciously agreed to provide us Panchang tithis for upcoming months.

Month: Fagan:

Fagan Vad 4 - Thursday - March 4
Parsvanath Bhagwan Chyavan Kalyanak
Parsvanath Bhagwan Kevalgnan Kalyanak

Fagan Vad 8 - Monday - March 8
Rishabhdev Bhagwan Janma Kalyanak
Rishabhdev Bhagwan Deeksha Kalyanak

Fagan Vad 14 - Sunday - March 14

Month: Chaitra:

Chaitra Sud 5 - Saturday - March 20
Chaitra Sud 7 - Monday - March 22 - Aayambil Odi
Chaitra Sud 13 - Sunday - March 28
Mahavirswami Janma Kalyanak
Chaitra vad 8 - Tuesday - April 6
Chaitra vad 14 - Tuesday - April 13

Month: Adhik Vaishakh:

Adhik Vaisakh sud 5 - Monday - April 19
Adhik Vaisakh sud 8 - Thursday - April 22
Adhik Vaisakh sud 14 - Tuesday - April 27
Adhik Vaisakh vad 8 - Thursday - May 6
Adhik Vaisakh vad 14 - Thursday - May 13

Month: Nij Vaishakh:

Nij Vaisakh sud 3 - Sunday - May 16
Akha Trij - Varsitap Parna

Nij Vaisakh sud 5 - Tuesday - May 18
Nij Vaisakh sud 8 - Friday - May 21
Nij Vaisakh sud 10 - Sunday - May 23 –
Mahavirswami Kevalgnan Kalyanak

Nij Vaisakh sud 14 - Wednesday - May 26

Mahavir Jayanti Program March 28th 2010

We will be celebrating Mahavir Jayanti Program on Saturday, March 27th 2010 at 3:00pm. As done in the past, we are continuing the format of silent bolies for some of the Swapnas and, of the Gold Malas and Flower Malas of all the Swapnas. A live Boli will be conducted for the following Swapnas: Lion, Elephant, Laxmi, Sun and Jewels.

Pledges: The pledge for remaining eleven swapnas is fixed at \$201 each. Up to three families will be allowed to pledge this amount each. In case of more than one family pledging this amount, all will be invited to the procession. Live Bolis will also be conducted for the two Artis, Mangal Divo, Parnu and two Dankas.

The pledge for gold mala is fixed at \$31 and for flower mala is fixed at \$21 each, and it will be on a first-come-first serve basis. Attached is a spreadsheet of the listing of Swapnas. Please call Mrs. Diptiben Shah @508-393-9361 or email her dipti1968@hotmail.com with your pledges.

Swamivatsalya: The Swamivatsalya will be sponsored by West Zone. If you can help, please contact the coordinators Nimisha Shah, Gira Tamboli and Bhavana Jain. The coordinators will be calling west zone members for dinner contribution. It is only once a year contribution for each member. Please support them.

Guided Tour: Renovation Committee is planning to give a guided tour of the new building to each and every member. Please see Sanjay Shah for your tour.

Pathshala Presentation: There will be a presentation from Pathshala Students on “Non-violence in Jainism” in their future class rooms.

Membership Renewal: Don’t forget to visit Secretary’s table with membership

renewal information. Your membership is very important. Your ability to vote has a great value. Please make sure your membership is up to date. This is an easy way to renew membership.

The program will be held at 15 Cedar Street building. The dinner will be served at 556 Nichols Street building.

Please allow yourselves enough time to visit the building, the presentation and to renew your membership.

Pratistha Anniversary Murti Uthapan/Sthapan Program June 26th- 27th, 2010

Executive Committee is very excited to announce that we have appointed a Vidhi-Vidhan (VV) Committee to work on details of the proper religious ceremony to move our Murtis to the new center. Looking at the scholar’s schedule and our availability Executive Committee in consultation with Renovation Committee and VV Committee are planning to have two days of grand celebration of Murti Uthapan/Sthapan program on June 26th & 27th, 2010.

As a tentative plan the Murthi Uthapan will be on June 26th after proper religious ceremony. On June 27th we will take Murtis from 15 Cedar Street building to 556 Nichols Street Building in a grand procession followed by Murti Sthapan with proper pujas.

We will inform you with further details as the plans get solidify.

Executive Committee is looking to appoint a **Logistic Committee** to look after all the programming, procession, catering etc. If you would like to volunteer at any capacity, please contact Jiten Vora @ jiten.vora@gmail.com or call him at 508-366-2223.

President's Report..

(.....Continued from page 1)

It gives me great pleasure to announce that we will be moving to the new center in June, 2010. The renovation committee headed by Sanjaybhai Shah has been working very hard & has made tremendous progress. I want to express special thanks to the committee members & all volunteer members who have been helping in renovation activities.

We have recently formed the Vidhi Vidhan committee led by Pankajbhai Shah. The committee will work of the details & oversee Uthapan & Sthapan related procedures. Everyone encouraged to provide input & suggestions.

We are planning to form a Logistics committee. The committee will oversee celebration of moving to the new center. Please contact me if you wish to offer your help by joining the committee

The preparation for our first major event, Mahavir Jayanti celebration is in full swing. We continue to limit the live swapna Boli during the event. Please support this initiative by reviewing attached Boli sheet and pledge your bolies ahead of time.

Pathshala and Swadhaya sessions are running very well. We are excited to announce that the pathshala will be moved to the new center starting from April. You will be notified by email.

Check out the JCGB Calendar of Events for a great array of upcoming and exciting events taking place every month throughout the year.

~~~~~ *Jitendra Vora*

## **Ayambil Tapascharya**

Continuing the JCGB bi-annual tradition, we will observe a day of Ayambil Tapascharya on Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup> 2010. If you would like to participate, please call before March 28<sup>th</sup> to the coordinators:

Lalitaben Kusumbhai Shah at 781-963-1706 or  
Ranjanben Sudhirbhai Shah at 508-660-9683

Date and Time: **Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>**

From 12:00 pm until 12:15 pm Chaitya Vandan  
From 12:15 pm until 1:15 pm Ayambil Meal

## **Vidhi-Vidhan Committee**

The executive committee of JCGB has decided to define the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27th June as the Uthpan and Sthapan days for the pratimajis. Moving the pratimajis to the new temple will not be defined as the pratistha since it is desire of the community to place all pratimajis in the future in a typical Jain style "Girbh Grabh" (gabhara) in the new temple. The EC has appointed a special committee to identify and extend invitations to the sharvaks and/or sadhus who are experienced in the Uthapan and Sthapan vidhis. This five member "Vidhi-Vidhan Committee" consists of Kulbhusan Jain, Dharmraj Khot, Ashok Shah, Harendra Shah, and Pankaj Shah. This committee in consultation with the invited vidhikars will identify all necessary vidhi, vidhans, puja, and pujans that will be performed during these 2-3 days event. If you have any suggestion, please call one of the members.

## **Constitution Review Sub Committee**

Executive Committee has appointed a 5 member Constitution Review Sub Committee (CRSC). The members are Dilip Jain, Arti Mehta, Shrey Shah, Chandrakant Vora and Narendra Zaveri. The Subcommittee has been appointed to review some of the issues concerning membership renewal and Treasurer's term.

The CRSC charged to evaluate the current process of membership renewal and recommend changes if necessary. With regards to Treasurer's Term, JCGB is in midst of a major and successful fund raising for the new building. With creative ideas we have been successful in raising large sum of money and financial accountability is equally important to comply with IRS regulations. The committee is asked to assess the constitution and see if any adjustment can be made with regards to the treasurer's tem under special circumstance.

If you have any suggestion or would prefer the Sub Committee to look into any other matter, please feel free to contact any of the Sub Committee members.

## **Status Report for Renovations at 556 Nichols Street**

The new home for our Jain Center at 556 Nichols Street, Norwood was purchased on October 29, 2009. In early October, the Executive Committee of JCGB appointed a Renovation Committee consisting of Dilip Gandhi, Pradip Gosalia, Dilip Jain, Preeti Jain, Pankaj Shah, Sanjay Shah, Sudhir Shah, Kashmira Vora and Premal Vora. EC has an authorization from the Sangh for \$200,000 to carry out the renovation. The RC was given a budget of \$150,000 to accomplish a number of tasks including decisions about Vedi Room and a construction of new Vedi, construction of a shower facility, construction of handicap access from the outside, upgrading of HVAC system as well as decorations and painting.

As the time progressed, RC determined that there were additional needs to be met including a complete upgrade of electric system, need for an additional classroom, an upgrade of kitchen floor, construction of new bathroom and sink next to kitchen, a new bathroom at the upper level, etc. We also decided to install a vestibule in front of the main entrance and change the façade at the entrance. Many other needs were identified and the task list grew to over 100 items.

As of mid-March, many items on the task list have been accomplished or will be accomplished by March 27 when we have our first major event at the new center, a dinner that will follow the Mahavir Jayanti program at 15 Cedar Street. Whereas the list is too long, the following are some of the major items:

- Requested and received many suggestions from the community as to what should the new facility look like.
  - We have considered and, as much as possible, incorporated most of these suggestions in the work already accomplished or planned to be accomplished
- Complete clean up (including steam cleaning) of kitchen appliances
- Replaced kitchen tiles (old ones were vinyl and many tiles were broken) with Quarry tiles
- Ordered and received new furniture for all classrooms
- Asked Kiritbhai Upadhyay to help as architect and to oversee the construction
- Hired Jay of Stoneybrook Builders for construction work

- The following construction is complete or near complete:
  - New handicap access ramp (with a roof so that everyone can use it in case of rain or snow)
  - New vestibule at the front entrance
  - A new handicap accessible bathroom with sinks outside next to kitchen on 1<sup>st</sup> level
  - A new shower facility on the 2<sup>nd</sup> level
  - Changed men's room on 3<sup>rd</sup> level so that there is an unisex handicap accessible bathroom
- Painted all classrooms, library, upper hallways, including protruding beams with the help of volunteers
- Completed design of the Vedi and created a mock-up so that the entire community can see it and give us their feedback
- Hired Charlie of Resendes Electric to upgrade the electric system for some part of our facility
  - Changed lighting fixtures to more efficient and bright lighting in all classrooms, and new outlets and switches
  - Changed light fixtures to more efficient and bright lighting in the library and foyer
  - Sensor operated lights in all bathrooms
  - Replaced old Exit signs with new ones with battery back-up
  - Changing electric panels in the kitchen and auditorium
- Major clean up completed with help of volunteers
- Modem with Wi-Fi connection has been ordered

There are still a few items open that are contemplated to be completed within next few months:

- HVAC – Decide on the new system and replace existing system (this required an additional budget of \$50,000 which was approved by EC. hence the total budget for renovation is now \$200,000)
- Vedi Room – Construct Vedi, install marble and get it ready for inauguration
- Foyer decorations
- Multimedia installation in library
- Change the incoming power supply to 277/480 system and change all panels in utility room
- Outside cleaning and get the play area ready

- Move non-religious items from 15 Cedar Street to 556 Nichols Street

Many volunteers have spent their entire weekends at the new center helping us to renovate the place. Words are not enough to thank them because they have done the work with dedication reserved for their own place. We will continue to request the support from the community, and have planned for two open dates for the entire community to help us, once in mid-March and once in May. More details will be sent out as appropriate.

## *Volunteer Opportunity*

To run such a large organization it requires work of many volunteer hours. Through various program at the Jain Center, you can imagine how many hours EC members are donating so the community members can enjoy the celebration.

If you would like volunteer in the **Logistic Committee**, please contact Jiten Vora.

We can use more help. If you can help us in any way, please contact EC members. Especially if you can help at upcoming Mahavir Jayanti and Pratistha program in serving dinner or set up and clean up dinner area, we would love to hear from you. Please contact EC member if you can spare an hour or two to help.

## **Random Act of Love**

### **By Priyanka Shah, Pathshala Class of 2005**

**Priyanka, daughter of Kiran and Manish Shah of Westborough is in a small village in Maharastra on Indycorp Mission.**

Part of our mission that day was to commit a random act of non-transactional kindness, a task that appeared simple enough at first glance. We decided to look out for individuals that looked particularly destitute and pathetic, people clearly in need of a random act of kindness in our opinion. Yet, this task proved to be the most challenging of the day. In the end, we walked over to the Swaminarayan Temple, a landmark sure to attract plenty of elderly people, perfect recipients for our random act.

At the intersection before the temple, we bought a small strand of yellow flowers from a flower seller. She was a small, wizened lady in a tattered sari with a small pile of flowers sitting on only a mat at the curb. As we

crossed the street, I inhaled deeply enjoying the scent of the flowers that I had just purchased. On the other side, we caught her eye as she beckoned for us to return which we promptly but confusedly did. The flower seller handed me a garland of jasmine flowers and told me, "I saw you smelling the flowers. Take these flowers as well, they are much more fragrant." At the time, I was taken aback. She refused any additional payment for the gift. While I had spent an hour scheming about how to commit a random act of kindness, a poor flower seller had acted in a split second. I spent the whole day beaming; the aroma of the jasmine flower tucked behind my ear a constant reminder of the love that a stranger had showed me that day.

Looking back, I realize that it never mattered that the benefactor of this random act of kindness was a flower seller and that the recipient, me, was a well-off American although I found it remarkable at the time. Such distinctions are materialistic and the beauty of a random act of kindness is in the emotions that it elicits. The flower seller had seen something she could do to brighten my day and acted upon it.

On the other hand, in my conspiring, I had forgotten the underlying drive behind what we see as random acts of kindness; love. In focusing our efforts on the action, we had forgotten the emotion behind the act. A random act of kindness cannot be about a single act that we commit as our daily good deed. It's about noticing something we can do for someone to brighten their day without asking for anything in return.

It doesn't matter if the random act of kindness (or a random act of love as I'd like to believe) consists of carrying four litres of kerosene down a country road for an old lady or buying the stressed out stranger in line behind you at the coffee shop a free cup of coffee. In fact it could be as little as a warm smile that cheers up another person who will then radiate it out to others creating more warmth in the world. All I ask is that in your actions, you are driven by love.

By this point you probably think I'm crazy; advocating random acts of love without asking for anything in return. I recommend you try it. Be observant of what's around you. Is there something you can do to uplift someone for even a moment? What are you waiting for? The smallest things can make the biggest changes in our lives. Commit a random act of love.

## Pathshala update

Jai Jinendra,

Pathshala students and faculty members are very enthusiastic to move to the new location "OUR NEW JAINCENTER" soon. Together we all saw this dream and in no time it is coming true. I am thankful to everyone who helped, especially to Artiben who inspired students to take part by donating and Pathshala become the Founding Donor Member & to Preeti Jain who put in lots of efforts to buy furniture. On behalf of entire Pathshala team I take the opportunity to thank from bottom of my heart to all the volunteers who helped us. We encourage more participation of not only all the students but also of the members of Jain center also by coming to Swadhyay class led by Dharmraj Khot.

Team of Yogendra Jain, Preeti Jain, Preeti Turakhia and Rakhee Jain are working on a special project for the New Center which is as follows.

### **Exhibition on Non-Violence and Jainism**

A Multi-media and hands on permanent exhibit which local Jain Centers can have and attract Non-Jain and Jain visitors. This will be a portal where ideas will be developed, exchanged, and documented.

At this time we are putting the plan together, it is expected that to do a very high quality job (which includes electronics, audio, large video displays, etc.)

Pathshala students are putting their valuable thoughts of NON- VIOLENCE in a very interesting projects to be displayed at Mahavir Jayanti . Please encourage them, your comments and opinions are welcome.

Upcoming Pathshala dates are:  
April 4<sup>th</sup>, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, June 6<sup>th</sup>.

There is a possibility that we will be able to hold our Pathshala from April 2010 onwards at the new center. Depending on the renovation schedule, if the Pathshala location will be changed, everyone will be notified.

As always, new members can get further details about Pathshala from JCGB website ([www.jcgb.org](http://www.jcgb.org)) or by calling me @508-543-5131

Thanks,

Mamta Mehta.

## *Member News:*

Congratulation to Anjana and Anshman Gosalia on the wedding of their daughter, Vikti with Sagar Naik. Congratulation and Best Wishes to the newly weds.

Our condolences to Priti Lathia for the loss of her father Mr. Arunbhai Shah

## **Young Jains of America Convention 2010: Inspire. Connect. Do the Jain Thing**

The 9th Biennial YJA Convention 2010 will be held on July 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> 2010 at Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick, New Jersey. The convention is for young Jains ages 14-29 with tracks dedicated to High School, College, and Post-College attendees

**The goal of YJA is** to provide Jain youth the opportunity to engage in spiritual, networking, and social activities. The convention offers enriching dharmic discussions and unique social events from a range of activities that involve art (talent competition) to a night of memories (formal dinner and dance). The result is a network of Jain youth to carry our tradition to the next generation.

To register please visit [www.yja.org](http://www.yja.org).

Please encourage your young once to attend this 'learn with fun' convention with ample opportunity to grow as a Jain religion follower.

## **Young Jain Professionals**

*Minds Wide Open...*

### **2010 YJP Convention:**

#### **Live and HELP Live!**

The YJP 2010-2011 Committee is beginning registration for its upcoming National Convention to be held from **June 4-7, 2010** in the warm blue waters of the Caribbean. This year's theme, **Live and HELP Live**, aims to awaken the proactive and creative spirit within each of us.

The convention will be in Cruise to Bahamas. For more detail, please contact:

Rajiv Vakani ([convention@yjponline.org](mailto:convention@yjponline.org))