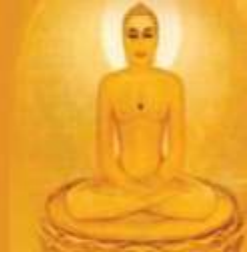


Jain Center of Greater Boston

NON VIOLENCE IN THOUGHTS, IN WORDS AND IN ACTION IS THE TRUE RELIGION

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JCGB NEWSLETTER, APRIL-2023

Editor: Amit Jain



From Editor

Jai Jinendra,

I am very happy to be part of the team to bring back this tradition of the Jain Centre of Greater Boston (JCGB) Newsletter and plan to continue this tradition with one publication every quarter.

JCGB has a very enriched past and greatly contributed to bringing Jain culture to the USA as one of the oldest Jain centers. In this Newsletter's feature article section, I am bringing topics from memory lane so not only JCGB society but people all across the world can learn about the 50 years of the history of JCGB. My focus would be to bring useful information to one place to integrate the JCGB. As a part of this newsletter's feature article, I had a conversation with many founding members of JCGB and I can sense the happiness in their voice and face when they were sharing their story.

Looking forward to serving the JCGB.

Amit Jain

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jai Jinendra,
Pranam Sadharmiks,

We hope this message finds you and your loved ones safe and healthy. As we completed 90-days of our journey as the new executive committee for JCGB, we would like to share some updates on our activities and initiatives at the Jain Center of Greater Boston (JCGB).

We would like to remember two great pillars of JCGB, who attained Sadgathi, Sri Dinesh bhai Dalal, and Sri Harendra bhai Shah. Dinesh bhai is one of the founding members of the center, he brought this center together with his great negotiation skills. He was instrumental in raising money for Jain Center, and he did all the bolis for the center, his presence is always felt especially during Mahavir Janma Kalyanak celebrations. Harendra Bhai a dedicated member of the Jain Center of Greater Boston, served as Treasurer and Vice President. He was passionate about helping those in need by serving Jain food at the Boston homeless shelter and supporting the Walk for Hunger, walking 10-15 miles every year. Also, two prominent figures of the greater Jain community attained sadgati, Sri Chraukeerti Battarak from Jain Matha Shravanabelagola, on March 23rd morning and Pandit Shri Dr Hukamchand Bharill ji, he has visited our Jain center a few times early years of our Jain center, 1990-2005.

In the past few months, we have continued to conduct several programs and activities that promote the principles of Jainism, Ahimsa, Aparigraha and Anekantvad. Our regular weekend online Swadyay from Sanjay Bhai and Dharmaraj Bhai has provided a platform for learning and reflection. On April 1st we had Lagu Siddacharkra pooja and Ayambil tapascharya coordinated by Dr Pankaj bhai Shah along with the Jain Society of Metro Chicago.

We continue with our regular schedule of the First Sunday of the month being Pathshala under the able leadership of Gira ben Tamboli, the second Sunday Dev-Shastra guru Pooja is coordinated by Richa Jain and Shweta Sethi, the third Sunday Snatra Pooja coordinated by Jahnavi Shah, Mamata ben Mehta and Sudhir bhai Shah. Please refer to the calendar on our website for detailed event lists. And our community service initiatives viz., PVSA have enabled us to give back to the broader community.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to all our volunteers, donors and PVSA members who have supported us throughout this period. Your generosity and commitment to the principles of Jainism have enabled us to continue our work and serve the community.

We welcome your feedback and suggestions for future activities and initiatives. We value your input and are committed to continuously improving our services to the community.

Sincerely,
Dev Jain (For EC)
President – JCGB



BOD CHAIRWOMAN MESSAGE

Jai Jinendra,

I am Neela Shah newly appointed Chairperson for our JCGB Board. My husband Sanjay Shah, myself and our family are in this area for more than 45 years. We have been part of our Jain Center all these years. In the past executive committees, I have held the positions of a treasurer, vice president and member at large.

We are very proud of our EC and volunteers for their commitment and dedication. Our Jain Center is humming with Pujas, Guests, Pathshala activities etc. In my next two years I would like to add more members to our Distinguished Donor Gold list. We would like to see it go from current 128 members to 250 members with our total membership of 450 families.

DD Gold provides income to Jain Center on ongoing basis consistently every year which helps sustain our day-to-day expenses. Our building is getting old and may require some expenses.

We will talk about what is DD Gold membership in our upcoming programs.

Thanks and Jai Jinendra.
Neela Shah
Chairperson - JCGB Board



FEATURE ARTICLE: JCGB 50 Years Back and Now

By Amit Jain

JCGB history can be easily understood as the life cycle of plants which all of our kids learnt in school. Each plant has 4 stages- seed/germination, seedling and mature plant. Similarly, JCGB history can be divided into 4 stages:

Seed- Early seventies time (1973-1975)

Germination- Mahaveer jayanti celebration (1976)

Seedling- Building search and activities between 1976 to 1981

Mature plant- Pratistha in 2002 and moved to a new building in 2010.

1973-1975

In the early seventies people came to this area either for education in prestigious institutes in this area or high tech jobs. Around 50 years back on 9 September 1973 our three founding members Dr. Vinay Jain, Dr. Sulekh Jain and Harshad shah ji used \$5 to announce on radio, which is equivalent to current social media or smart phones, to inform all jain families about gathering to celebrate Paryushan Parv in Malden, MA. This was the place and time when jain families decided to have a center but all bigger questions were very obvious How? Where? When?.

Mahaveer Jayanti Function in 1976

Maharaj Sushil Kumar ji was on his second visit to the Boston area to celebrate Mahavir Jayanti. This function was at MIT and he shared his vision in the Mahavir Jayanti program that now there is a need for a temple in this area to celebrate festivals and give exposure to a new generation about our religion. With this thought only that day \$1200 in donations and \$5500 in loans were collected. At that time this amount was enough to buy a new luxury car, I don't think this is possible in any center anywhere in the world to do even today. Seed of Jain center sowed in 1973 germinated with the blessing and energy of Maharaj Ji.



Late Acharya Sushil Kumarji

1976-1981

It took almost 5 years to show the first sign of a seedling, Jain center building, from germinated seed (the idea of own Jain center). During this time evolution of life was inevitable, families started growing, bought homes and some of them even retired to home also. However, the focus was not changed and in that spirit of having a center donations continuously kept coming. In 1981, Dr. Vinay/Laxmi Jain and late Dinesh/Chitra dalal along with many others saw the building at 15 Cedar St, Norwood. This building was a church constructed in 1898. Since the property was at the right price and appropriate to accommodate the families at that time the decision was made to buy this for the future Jain center. Dr. Arvind and Bharti Shah brought the panch dhatu (5 metals mixed together) Parswanath Bhagwan murti. September 6, 1981 was the historic day when inauguration/sthapna function was done. This is how the first Jain temple of the United States of America was born, which is known as the Jain Centre of Greater Boston (JCGB). From 1981 to the beginning of the 21st century Jain families in this area were fortunate to celebrate all Jain festivals in their own Jain Centre Building.



Church Building at 15 Cedar St. Norwood, MA



Inside of JCGB at 15 Cedar St. Norwood, MA

2002-2010

With time the community grew and it was felt that the temple could be expanded by adding more Pratima ji/Namokar Mantra shila. To accomplish this task Pratima Implementation Committee (PIC) was constituted including Sudhir Shah/Preeti Jain/Haren Mehta/Haresh Shah and Anshuman Gosalia. Pt. Jaikumar ji assisted Preeti ji in the summer of 2001 to select white marble partima jis for the temple. Sanjay Shah and his brother were instrumental in bringing brass parikar for center Mulnayak pratima ji from Palitana. All pratima jis/namokar mantra shila and parkar were received in the temple on 15 May 2002 and parthistha ceremony was performed on 7-9 June 2002.

PIC efforts upgraded the vedi and brought new energy to JCGB. Footprints to JCGB were continuously increasing from 2002 till the end of the first decade of the 21st century. This is the time period when JCGB faced problems that originated from the growth of the society like lack of space in general and for. shala; parking issues. To solve these issues the only option was to move out of the 15 Cedar St building. JCGB all-rounder volunteer team got activated and attacked this problem from all fronts. At one point JCGB temple was almost moved to Hopkinton but I think Norwood has some energy to hold JCGB within city borders. The team of Sudhir bhai/Premal Vora /Kulbhusan Jain/Sanjay Shah found the current building for JCGB.



New Vedi at JCGB 15 Cedar St,
Norwood, MA (circa 2002)



JCGB at 555 Nicholas St.,
Norwood, MA (circa 2010)

Acknowledgment

Thanks to Chandra Khasgilwala /Kulbhusan Jain /Yogendra Jain/Haresh Tamboli to provide basic resources for research and time given by them to talk and discuss this topic is highly appreciated.

Disclaimer

I know multiple names are not in this script, Uttam Kshama. Also, each part of this JCGB history needs attention separately to provide spicy details on each topic and I am sure it will come in JCGB's future newsletter, stay tuned.

The next Newsletter topic would be the contribution of JCGB to the jain society of the USA in form of publications/stage performances etc.

Connecting with JCGB Society

Following are the WhatsApp groups which were created to enhance the participation in religious activities, volunteer work and communication with pathshala teachers:

JCGB Broadcast Group- all JCGB program information is posted on this group to join this group please connect with Mamta Mehta (Vice President)

JCGB Dev Shastra Guru Puja- this group organize the puja every second Sunday of the month and puja coordinators are Richa Jain and Shweta Sethi

JCGB Parshva Puja - this group organize the snatra puja every third Sunday of the month and puja coordinators are Jahnavi Shah, Mamta Mehta and Sudhir Shah.

JCGB Volunteers - this group created for all enthusiastic JCGB member to support JCGB in multiple different fronts like help in big program organization like Diwali/Mahavir Janma Kalyanak/Pratishtha etc., general cleaning and building maintenance. Please connect with any EC member to join this group.

JCGB/PVSA Participants: this group is created with intention to enhance the pathshala students participation in volunteer activities within and outside temple. Please connect with Nikesh Kotadiya or Gira Tamboli

Regular Programs

Swadhyay on Every Saturday: By Sanjay Jain; Topic is "Tatvarth Sutra" from 8:30 am to 9:30 am. Link for this event is regularly posted in JCGB Broadcast group.

Swadhyay on Every Sunday: By Dharmraj Khot; Topic is "Purusharthasidduapaya" from 8:30 am to 9:30 am. Link for this event is regularly posted in JCGB Broadcast group.

Pathshala: Every month 1st Sunday. Director: Gira Tamboli; Co-ordinator: Jyotsna Sait, Saloni Mehta. Detailed information is posted on <http://www.jcgb.org/pathshala>.

Past JCGB Activities 2022-23

On January 1st as we have been doing since several years, we started our year with puja sponsored by Saurabh Doshi and Supriya Jain.

On January 4, 2023 In solidarity with the greater Jain community across the world we conducted, Tirth Raksha aarti to protect Sammed Shikhar Ji (Jharkhand India)

On February 25, 2023, Pathshala winter camp



April 01, 2023: Laghu Siddhachakra Puja and Ayambil

VOLUNTEERING

Work Completed by JCGB Volunteers








No organization can survive without volunteers and JCGB is fortunate to have a team of dedicated volunteers who are always ready to contribute. That does not mean we have enough, we are eagerly looking for new volunteers with and without prior experience, so please join the JCGB volunteer's WhatsApp group, and connect with any EC members for more information.






- New Audio systems installation in the auditorium, including the huge JBL speakers mounted on the wall.
- Cabinet installation in samagri room
- Installation of additional 8 Solar powered CCTV Camera for added Security
- Gas Pipeline Expanded for high flow of gas to Kitchen Stove
- Backup Hot Water Boiler is fixed to provide continued hot water to JCGB
- Decoration and cleaning of panduk shila and solah sapne for Mahaveer Janam Kalyanak celebrations
- Spring cleaning inside and outside JCGB
- General cleaning of multiple different locations (Samagri Room, Office room, pathshala classrooms, Kitchen, Media Room, Storage room to name a few) in the temple to create a well-organized space for JCGB community.

If you have specialist knowledge in certain areas of building maintenance, please contact Vishal Jain (Director of Property Management) or any other EC member as we are always looking for volunteer help in this area.








Current Executive Committee and Their Vision for JCGB Society

Dev Prakash Jain (President)		President
Mamta Mehta (Vice President)		The JCGB community is committed to following and leading the Jain way of life. Let's continue our work to follow the Jainism path and inspire future generations with positive and thoughtful leadership.
Supriya Doshi (Secretary)		My vision is to bring people to the temple and get involved in Pooja and other activities more often (more than just 4 Sundays). I would like to have more religious activities that cover kids as well as adults /Elders.
Tanya Jain (Treasurer)		Encourage newcomers and young professionals to pledge for Distinguished Gold Donor.
Vishal Jain (Director of Property Management)		I have been privileged to be associated with JCGB since 2006. I strongly believe any organization like JCGB thrives only on its members and community. My wishlist of projects for JCGB is kitchen redesign, roof fixing short term, and floor polishing in the temple and big hall to begin with. Regular maintenance of course would be a continued top priority to provide a safe, secure and healthy environment to JCGB and its members.
Rinkesh Shah (Member at large)		I want to improve the experience and participation of people (especially youth) at the JCGB Center. I want to promote cooperation/respect among different sects of Jainism. I want to serve the center wherever possible.
Amit Jain (Member at large)		I wish to create an environment where kids, adults and seniors can take part in religious activity and continue the Jain way of life even after living a thousand miles away from their home. I wish that we can expand to accommodate growing needs for more and more religious activities within all sects, pathshala classrooms and other required areas.

Chirag Mehta (Member at large)		<p>JCGB is my home. I not only find my connection to God here but also get to meet an amazing group of selfless people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I wish to continue fostering the tradition of JCGB by supporting religious and community activities. - Build a strong foundation for our Future generation by educating them about Jain Principles, and practices. - Create impact not just at the Jain Center level but also at a larger community around us using our philosophies and community volunteering activities.
Nishi Shah,		<p>I am excited to work with the JCGB community and Executive Committee to work towards engaging our youth in events and activities at our temple to form a stronger connection between the youth in our community and surrounding communities. I look forward to your continued support.</p>
Kailash Jain (member at large)		<p>I envision increasing membership threefold and encouraging donations to see a "Traditional Jain Temple" by 2030. Also, to see the JCGB temple picture published in the Jaina calendar. I enjoyed serving our community and active participation in its growth.</p>
Dharmendra Sethi		<p>I wish to create a community where every member's ideas and opinions are heard and welcomed. I believe that by working together and supporting one another, we can build a stronger, more cohesive community.</p>
Gira Tamboli		<p>Encourage pathshala students to volunteer more at JCGB; enhance pathshala curriculum; with the help of community and EC make more robust pathshala and increase the number of students and capacity.</p>

Board Members

Neela Shah (Chairperson)			
Haresh Tamboli (Secretary)			
Ambuj Jain (Member)			
Premal Vora (Member)			
Pankaj Shah (Member)			

JCGB Calendar/Event Schedule

<i>Event</i>	<i>Tithi (actual date)</i>	<i>JCGB Planned Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>RSVP Link</i>	<i>Check RSVP</i>
<i>Walk for Hunger</i>		<i>May 7, 2023</i>	<i>Boston Commons</i>		
<i>Pathshala - Exams</i>		<i>May 14, 2023</i>			
<i>Pathshala - Exams</i>		<i>June 4, 2023</i>			
<i>JCGB Pratistha Anniversary Celebrations (Combined Puja and JCGB Got Talent)</i>		<i>June 24-25</i>			
<i>JCGB Annual Picnic</i>		<i>July 29</i>	<i>Hopkinton State Park</i>		
<i>Paryushan</i>		<i>September 12- 19</i>			
<i>Das Lakshan</i>		<i>September 19-28</i>			
<i>Kshamavani Day (celebrations)</i>		<i>October 1, 2023</i>			
<i>Deepavali Celebrations</i>	<i>November 12, 2023</i>	<i>November 19, 2023</i>			
<i>Thanksgiving Jaap</i>		<i>November 23, 2023</i>			

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