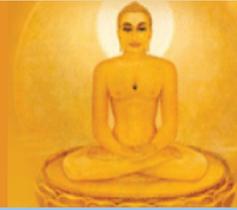


Jain Center of Greater Boston

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

556 NICHOLS STREET, NORWOOD, MA 02062 Phone: (781) 762 - 9490



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jai Jinendra,

I hope everyone is well and giving the utmost priority to their health and safety of yourselves, family and the community during this Coronavirus pandemic. Please note that to prevent the spread of the virus and for the safety of our members, Pathshala kids, teachers, and volunteers, our Executive Committee and Board jointly decided to temporarily close our temple in early March 2020. It was not an easy decision for anyone. This unprecedented time has heightened our compassion and strengthened our faith. After making the tough decision of temporarily closing the temple, we have gone online with lot of activities. Now available online are monthly Pathshala, Sunday sessions of prayers/stavans, puja's, Ashokbhai and Dharmrajbhai's lectures, and daily arti with the amazing support and ideas from our Sangh members. In these small ways, we hope that you are able to pray for everyone's wellbeing and peace during these uncertain times. Thanks to Artiben for taking lead on Sunday sessions and thanks to Shreybhai for the idea of online Arti.

With high spirits of Bhagwan Shri Mahavir Swami's Janma Kalyanak in mind, we celebrated the event online on April 6th. We would like to thank Ranjanben and Sudhirbhai Shah for hosting the event at their home. We appreciate all the Sangh members that were able to join and thank you for your participation and generous donations.

We have some members of the community participating in Sankli Tapascharya until we reopen our temple. Thanks to Dhiraben Mehta for the idea.

We are extremely happy to announce that JCGB now have Live Darshan of our Bhagwan, and members can do live darshan at all times using YouTube link

<https://youtu.be/ogphE0fT0Mg>. Please make sure to subscribe to our channel; this will allow us to include the link on our *JCGB.ORG* webpage once we have more than 1,000 subscribers. This was made possible through help and efforts of our EC member Chirag Mehta, as well as some other EC members.

During the daily arti sessions, an idea was brought up by the Executive Committee and Board to give back to our local Norwood community. With the help our members, we were able to raise over \$4,500 solely through donations. This money will be going towards the Norwood Food Pantry and an organization that is making masks for healthcare workers.

I believe that these tough times have brought our community together, and I am proud of all the support you have for our temple and each other. If you have any further ideas that you think the Jain Center and our members would benefit from, please feel to reach out. Below are the guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); we encourage you to follow these in the upcoming months.

GUIDELINES FROM THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC):

The CDC urges anyone who has symptoms of severe to moderate cold, cough, combined with fever, etc. to refrain from visiting public facilities until the symptoms are resolved.

There are simple things you can do to help protect yourself and others:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- If the sickness prolongs more than a few days, seek the advice from a Physician.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

During the year, unknowingly if we have hurt your feelings, on behalf of the entire Executive Committee, please accept our Michchhami Dukkadam.

Thanks, and regards,
Haresh Tamboli
JCGB President

PERSPECTIVE ON COVID-19 THROUGH THE JAIN PHILOSOPHY

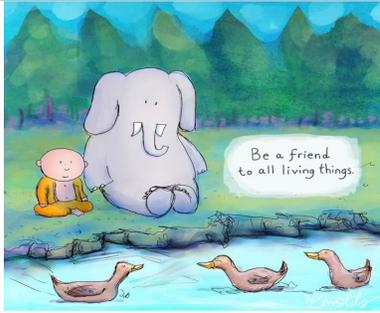
By Dharmaraj Khot

Today the entire world is engulfed in a global crisis of historical proportions known as COVID-19. As of this writing, the global spread has surpassed 1 million people with over 50,000 deaths in 180+ countries around the world. What initially started as a regional health crisis has now turned out to be a global pandemic and global economic catastrophe with millions of people losing their means of livelihood.

Jain Philosophy
on
COVID-19

For many, it's a crisis of lifetime staring in an abyss of destruction, nothingness, disappointment, and shattered dreams. Whatever people have built, created or developed over many years of hard work appears to suddenly collapse or face a potentially dire threat, one from which they feel cannot recover or repair. This is the mother of all crises, which is testing humanity's collective will and resolve to fight off the disease. Here, a key question emerges as to how to process and digest this unthinkable human and economic catastrophe?

Jain Dharma has, for many centuries, offered a path of understanding life, its meaning, existential purpose and much more. At such critical juncture, it would serve us well to know, understand and reflect on the following:



1. Jain Dharma says we must inculcate a mental state of friendship towards all living beings, exalted happiness for virtuosos, compassion towards the downtrodden, and tranquility toward adversaries.

2. This is a time for deep reflection and prayer for those facing life-death situations; those who have lost everything; those who are at the cusp of losing their life. We must offer prayers filled with compassion and hope for those facing hardships; proactively provide assistance for those in need and do everything we can to help others. The attributes of friendship and compassion transcend boundaries of nationality, creed, heritage, race, sex and religious denomination.



3. We must express a gesture of gratitude towards law enforcement agencies, health professionals, doctors, paramedics, nurses, govt. officials who are taking extreme risks to help others. This is sure to bind a lot of meritorious karma (Punya Karma) for doing noble deeds.

4. We should undertake special activities that help us to gain mental peace and strength such as chanting of mantras, expressing devotion to the Lordship, undertaking meditation, praying for world peace and health, etc. These activities contribute to invoking the latent meritorious karmas. So has been stated in the faultless Jain scriptures.





5. Be wise to know that nothing in this world is built for permanence. On the contrary, transformation and change are the only two constants in the cosmos for all living and non-living entities. This is the true nature of reality.

6. All universal substances are characterized by three realities – Origination, Decay, and Permanence. This fundamental principle states that in a changing world, new forms/modes of entities will evolve and originate in the due course of time. These new modes/entities will perish through the principle of decay in the due course of time. While this is happening, the most essential characteristics of a substance will forever remain the same, i.e. the principle of permanence. An unshakable belief in this Nature of Reality will produce calm, stillness and internal strength. So has been said by the Jina, all-omniscient spiritual victor

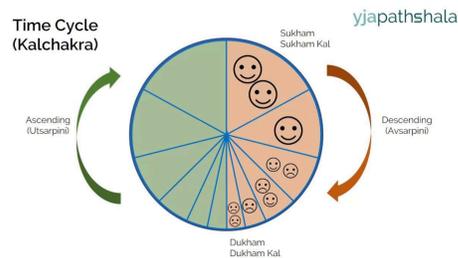


7. All entities/objects/substances in their current form have an expiration date. There is nothing permanent about this world or the things it contains. What goes up has to come down; what's born has to die; what has united must be separated. These are universal principles related to the Nature of Reality. People chose not to believe in them due to delusion, attachment, and aversion. The sooner we understand, analyze and study, the better off we will be for the future.

8. There is no place of ultimate shelter in this world. All shelters work until meritorious karma (Punya Karma) is present. The moment de-meritorious karma (paap karma) rises, all external things will cease to work. All our support systems in the sentient form - husband, wife, father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, and in the insentient form – wealth, money, mansion, hut, house, vehicles, land, prestige, etc., - will cease to operate. This is the true nature of reality as propounded in the Jain metaphysics. The sooner you begin to apply yourself to this truth, the better off you will be when grief strikes. This time-tested knowledge and strong belief have helped true seekers to achieve Moksha, the most arduous effort known to mankind. There is only one shelter that we can seek – it is the shelter



of true Nature of Reality, i.e. Dharma. This will never disappoint or bring misery to you in life



9. Mundane existence has always been, is and will be full of misery and grief. The current time cycle is rightly called Dukhama, i.e., one filled with sorrow, pain, and misery. While some of us may experience some happiness through material comforts, one must understand that it is fleeting in the large scheme of things called the transmigration. The sooner we accept this reality, the better off we will be in dealing with its consequences and results.

10. The true nature of Reality has emanated from all-omniscient, passionless and all-knowing Jina. This can only provide peace, wisdom and a path to carving out a life full of unending bliss and happiness.

- Dharmaraj Khot

Graphics courtesy JAINA

FROM THE DESK OF PATHSHALA DIRECTOR

Hope you and your families are safe and sound during this difficult time.

Now let me talk about the news and progress that pathshala has made in the past year. As of now we have 135 students registered at JCGB Pathshala. Pathshala is running smoothly with the help of our dedicated teachers and coordinators. I would also like to give credit to parents as they are the driving force behind the success of our Pathshala. It is heartening to note that this year the parents are even more invested in Pathshala than before.

We started our academic year with a combined Pooja (Snatra Pooja and Dev Shastra Guru Pooja) performed by all Pathshala students in August/September. We also celebrated many festivals and events throughout the year such as, Paryushan, Das Lakshan, Diwali, Thanksgiving Day Jap, Winter Camp, Mahavir Jayanti, Walk For Hunger, Pratishtha Anniversary, JCGB's Got Talent, and Summer Picnic. When our community comes together to celebrate it feels like we are in our second home.

In our pathshala, kids can register from as early as age 3, and they graduate from the pathshala along with their School Graduation at grade 12. Graduating students are honored by a certificate and a token gift from JCGB. This year's graduates are Suraj Sait, Ashna Jain, Nishi Shah and Karan Shah. Our hearty congratulations to the 2020 graduating class!

At Pathshala, our focus is on teaching jain values and principles through hands on activities at younger ages, and research based learning at higher grade levels. Students also memorize prayers and sutras during the class. On the JCGB website, the pathshala page is updated with our curriculum, books, pdf for

Snatra Pooja and Devshashtra Guru Pooja, all the prayers, parva sheet, registration and waiver form. We are in the process of using new technology and aim to go as paperless as possible to serve the environment. Last year's Level 4 Pathshala students have been collaborating with Pramanik group of India and their teacher Preeti Jain and are continuing to do English voiceovers for Animated Jain stories. These stories are being viewed and appreciated by Jains worldwide - kids and adults. Several Pathshalas are using them for their class teaching. This could also be a great way to spend time with our families during our time at home now! Please find the link to the stories in both English and Hindi here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6WJVjzdk70Bpv0SfiMHYGGQ/feature>

JCGB level 6 Pathshala students are developing a survey to be administered worldwide in collaboration with JAINA Long Range Planning committee. The goal is to better understand Jain demographics, practices, beliefs, and their view on preserving and expanding Jainism and Jain Way of Life. This data will be analyzed and shared with Jains leaders worldwide so they can better meet the needs for their members.

Pathshala teachers at JCGB are always eager to find out ways to bring changes towards the betterment of the Pathshala. Last year we sent out a Survey to get feedback from parents and most of the parents submitted their responses. We received some good suggestions and ideas. Likewise, our 2020 Survey will be sent out later.

JCGB is now Certified to present the Presidential Award to eligible students and adult volunteers. I am very happy to announce that his son, Ahrav Jain, is the first student to receive the Presidential Award at JCGB. I would also like to thank Bhramdev Jain for working behind the scenes on this important program. Below is the link if you wish to gather more information - <https://presidentialserviceawards.org/eligibility>

JCGB is very welcoming when any school or community wants to visit our center, and try to understand Jain beliefs. This year a class of 20 students from New Bedford High school visited our center with their teacher, Erin Kochanek. Yogenbhai and I did a presentation and workshop on Jainism when they were visiting us as one of their field trips to various religious centers. The students had done several projects on Jainism, and everyone at the community and teachers were amazed by their excellent work.

Finally, I would like to appreciate all the help and support from our JCGB President, Haresh Tamboli, VP, Shradha Kotadiya, and all the other Executive Committee Members.

Have a safe summer!

Prity Turkhia
Pathshala Director

FROM THE DESK OF TREASURER

This unprecedented time has taught us very valuable lessons, has raised our compassion and made our faith deeper.

We pray for all living beings to be happy and healthy.

At our virtual Mahavir Jayanti event donations from our members were overwhelming, we raised nearly the same amount that we do at the temple. It shows our solidarity and commitment.

With generous donations for Covid -19 from our members we are in the process of helping Norwood Food pantry with donating vegetarian food items and a small amount will be

donated to Making Masks in Norwood group where volunteers are making non- medical grade masks.

Thank you for generous donation and willingness to help every step of the way.

For any contribution

Please use the following options

1. Donations to JCGB can be made via Zelle (through your on line banking) There are three simple steps: Access Zelle, pick a person to Pay (email: treasurer@jcgb.org)
2. Choose the amount and enter the amount to send. Please visit www.zellepay.com
3. You can also donate via PayPal (<http://jcgb.org/contributions/donations>)
4. Checks can mail to our Treasure: Mamta Mehta (Cell no 508-345-8781) Please make your checks Payable to The Jain Center of Greater Boston. You can mail checks to the following address. Mamta Mehta,8 Flintlock Road Franklin MA 02038.

Mamta Mehta
Treasurer

VOLUNTEERING

JCGB's Contribution to the Local Community: COVID-19

Today, the entire world is going through the global epidemic crisis of COVID-19. Historically, no one has seen or experienced this kind of a disaster, never imagining such an event would occur during their lifetime. Looking at the numbers, any individual can lose their peaceful state of mind. Over four million people were impacted, coupled with almost three hundred thousand deaths in nearly every nation in the world. COVID-19 has induced a global health crisis, which has now turned into a pandemic and global economic catastrophe with millions of people losing their means of livelihood.

JCGB laid its foundation forty years ago in Norwood, MA. Since then, the community had been groomed, nourished, and grown to its extent. We have grown from 30 to 300+ families over the years. We have always felt blessed to be part of JCGB. We have always felt privileged to pioneer several community activities. Our community has been noticed and acknowledged for our work throughout North America. During this catastrophe, the community stands strong and is willing to help those in need. Despite the fact that we are unable to attend communal activities at the temple, people are trying to get in touch with several virtual activities.

At the same time, when other institutes are approaching the government for financial aid to sustain through this period, JCGB is trying to reflect on social responsibility and belonging. As a community, we sincerely understand this unthinkable humanitarian and economic catastrophe. In this situation, we also realized that as Jains, we should take responsibility to help those who are underprivileged. Not only should we lend a hand to Jain brothers and sisters, but all of mankind. We are learning that many people in the Norwood area are unable to get everyday bread and that it is life or death situation without food. Many people cannot afford to spare enough money to bring food to the table. Our community strongly believes in Jainism and its principals. At this juncture, this is time to express our deepest gratitude toward the local community with 'Karuna' Bhav, or compassionate reflections. As a result of it, the JCGB community decided to raise a COVID-19 fund and

contribute it towards the local community, including the non-profit “Norwood Food Pantry” and “Together Yes” organizations.

Jains have always been profoundly known for donation – ‘Dan Dharm.’ It is one of the core principles of any layman. Eventually, it was decided to raise a COVID-19 fund and we received a very spontaneous response from the community and at the same time, Mr. Pankaj Mehta announced that he will contribute one-fourth of the total donation. No wonder, community also contributed their BIG part. On the virtue of Jainism, we decided to donate only vegetarian food to the food pantry and some part of the fund to the “Together Yes” organization. This group was organized under the name of ‘Making Masks in Norwood,’ and they have rallied nearly five hundred people to contribute numerous hours for the cause. In one or the other way, everyone helps, whether it is by stitching masks or delivering them to the Boston area where they are desperately needed. The recipients include the medical community, first responders, nursing homes, and many more. With little funding, this organization is committed to serving the community until the need is satisfied.

As Dharmaraj Bhai enunciated in his article, “Jain Dharma says we must inculcate a mental state of friendship towards all living beings, exalted happiness for virtuosos, compassion towards the downtrodden, and tranquility toward adversaries.”

As a community, we have reflected on good cause, thank you for all your help and contribution to make it happen.

JCGB Volunteer
Mahavir Akkole





6:50



Susan Clare ▶ Making Masks in Norwood



16 mins · 🌐

Good morning. Heart warming donation from the Jain Temple of Greater Boston to our project. This will be enough for us to purchase more fabric, elastic, and whatever else we need (including those ziploc bags the couriers so nicely pack masks in before delivering them). Thank you, Jains! Our area of the suburbs is quite diverse, and some of our good volunteers in Making Masks in Norwood belong to this Temple. We are people together, gathering our spirits under the same sun.

If you don't know much about Jains, you can take a little break from sewing and get an idea of the religion. I confess I knew nothing until I actually met and visited with some Jains at the Norwood Community Garden. Enjoy the little video you'll see of the girls performing a traditional dance. I'm glad of Norwood's diversity, and our growing appreciation of one another.

<https://www.facebook.com/JCGB.boston/>



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Spring at our Derasar – Jahnvi & Chirag Mehta







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