Welcome

JCSC Connect
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Editor’s Note

Om Shri Veetragay Namah

Jai Jinendra,

On behalf of JCSC Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, the Editorial Advisers and the Editorial Team, it gives me immense pleasure to bring you the first issue of JCSC Connect.

With blessings from Bhagwan Mahavir and inspiration from our President, Virendrabhai Shah and guidance from a long time veteran of many JCSC publications, Chandrakantbhai Parekh, we started putting together the editorial team in March of this year. The enthusiastic participation by the section editors and the contributions of many JCSC members has made it possible to publish this first issue in a short time. I am thankful and grateful to all of those who have been instrumental in making this dream a reality.

I hope that through the various topics covered in this magazine, we will all make our connections stronger – connections with each other, with Bhagwan and with our true self.

In Seva,

Dilip Parekh
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Jai Jinendra,

As you may recall from my message in our last newsletter “The format of our current newsletter has hardly changed since its beginning. It rarely engages our young generation. To address this challenge, an expanded and interactive version of the Newsletter is already in progress under the leadership of Dilip Parekh. Many youth have already signed up to contribute. The articles, stories, information shall cater to the needs and interest from JCYC students to seniors and everybody in between.”

I am thankful to the entire magazine team under the leadership of Dilip Parekh for bringing out this very first issue in such a short time. It is known that the birth of first child is most difficult! There are lot of emotional ups & downs anxiety, fear and so on. It is also true with any new venture. There are lot of efforts, hard work, time, energy, communications required. However most of the time results are very satisfying and gratifying. So is the result of all the efforts put forth by this team. I am sure over the time this process will mature and so would be the results.

We Indians, particularly the first generations, are attributed with many qualities typical of which are ‘well educated, over achievers, successful entrepreneurs, family oriented’ and also ‘NOT LETTING GO’. While we appreciate and sing praises of our young generation’s talent and achievements, we hardly entrust them with the opportunities of leadership, decision making, guidance and future planning. Often times we call upon them for manual help and technical knowhow as we find ourselves weaker in these fields. Our commitment to this transition remains a lip service only.

However we are changing this culture at our Jain Center. The management is committed to encourage and engage the youth in every single field not only by introducing and hosting activities geared towards them but also listening to their ideas, thoughts and giving them opportunities to lead various activities. One such attempt is the launch of this bi-monthly magazine ‘JCSC CONNECT’. There are more youth contributors, segment editors, and reporters than ever before for any Jain Center publication. I am glad to acknowledge that they have exceeded my wildest expectation many time over by their talent, enthusiasm, professionalism and focused approach.

Please review this publication very thoroughly and let us have your feedback so we get to know where we need improvement and where we can acknowledge the excellent work of our talented team. Please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Virendra Shah
Prashant Shah Wins the Magazine Naming Contest

In early April, we had announced a contest to name the new JCSC bi-monthly magazine. A total of 41 names were suggested by 12 people. Prashant Shah’s entry ‘JCSC Connect’ won the contest. Read as Prashant articulates below why this name is appropriate for the magazine.

“The only name that came to my mind for the new magazine was ‘JCSC Connect’. The thought behind suggesting this name was that the magazine would serve as a medium for members to connect with each other in the community and ultimately to connect with true self. The hope is that magazine would enable readers to shift their focus from worldly life to spirituality. We get so entrenched in life chasing wealth, status, fame and worldly pleasures that inner connection with GOD and true self is lost. The idea is that magazine would ignite that connection through its content where readers of all age groups from teens to seniors would walkaway with some meaningful insight. The magazine would not be a merely newsletter providing information about events and activities of the Jain Center but also encourage and inspire members to find a true meaning of human life.

Being born and raised in India, I was already exposed to lot of Jain traditions and rituals. Through Jain Study Group (JSG) classes that I was able to understand the deep meaning behind teachings of Bhagwan Mahavir and nourish my roots further. The JSG classes and other satsangs have helped me change my worldly perspective and develop strong faith in Bhagwan and His sermons. I have been fortunate enough to be an active member of JSG for past ten years and a coordinator of all JSG activities since 2009. In addition, I am also a member of Jain Center’s religious committee. Professionally, I graduated from USC with an MBA degree and work as a Technology Director with an investment and brokerage firm based in Los Angeles. As a householder, regular satsang is my attempt to build a connection with Bhagwan and true self. The ‘JCSC Connect’ magazine will be good reminder of who we truly are every time we read it. I congratulate the magazine team for this humble endeavor and all the hard work to make it successful.”

Stay Connected,
Prashant Shah
The content of JCSC Connect is organized in seven sections. Each section has a specific focus and will contain articles as described below.

**Young Generation**
This section is about our most treasured asset – our children. It is for them, about them and in some cases, written by them. It will contain Jain stories, games and puzzles, humor, art contests, JCYC teacher and student interviews and articles written by JCYC students on various topics.

**Devotion**
In this section, we plan to bring you articles about the various forms in which we express our reverence, love and gratitude for God. Prayers, Puja, Darshan, Stavan, and Sutra are all part of a daily life of an aspirant. Understanding the purpose and meaning of these daily rites is crucial in order to develop faith and make our practices full of devotion and sentiment. Our goal for this section of the magazine is to provide you with articles that explain the meanings of various pujas, stavans, sutras and other rituals.

**Education**
JCSC is well recognized in the USA as one of the best for its educational focus and activities. In this section you will have an opportunity to get a closer look at what gives our educational program such distinctive status. We will explore what the students of all ages are learning in these classes. We will also bring you various short articles about Jain philosophy including summaries of various Jain scriptures that will introduce you to the depth and breadth of Jain literature.

**Compassion**
Of the three basic principles of Jainism – Ahimsa, Anekantvad and Aparigraha – ahimsa is the most well recognized Jain principle in the whole world. At the root of ahimsa is compassion; compassion not just for the fellow human beings but also for the smallest of creatures and plants. JCSC members have always demonstrated this virtue by participating in many worthy causes that reduce human and animal suffering. In this section, we will bring you information about compassionate activities done by JCSC organizations and members. We will also feature various worthy causes outside of JCSC that you will find worth exploring further.

**Inspiration**
We may learn a lot about the values that Jains believe in by taking part in many educational activities. But the emotion of feeling “inspired” comes from hearing or reading stories that involve people that have focused on these values. It is our surrounding community and the “good” they do for others that compels us to feel inspired. In this section we will feature stories from all over the world - stories that involve people who are helping others, engaging in social entrepreneurship, solving world problems, and living a lifestyle where giving their time and energy to others is their main goal in life.

**Transformation**
Learning about Jainism, its teachings, values, and ideals is certainly a good thing. But the real transformation can happen only if we practice what we have learned, if we make it a way of life. As the ancient Chinese philosopher Lao-tzu has said, “A journey of a 1000 miles starts with one small step”. In this section, we plan to bring you articles that will show you these small steps. The articles about nutritional recipes, optimism, gratitude, generosity, short meditations, introspection, and many such topics will nurture your body, mind & soul and will help you march ahead in your spiritual journey.

**Information**
The JCSC community is a growing, vibrant community with many activities taking place all the time. In this section we will bring you the news about the events that have occurred during the prior two months from various JCSC and Jain community organizations. We will also bring you events that are planned for the next two months.
When students and adults think about JCYC Pathshala teachers, first name that comes to mind is Amita Desai. She has been teaching at JCYC since 1992. Currently she teaches the 8 year olds about Jainism. Biren Mehta had a privilege of speaking with her on behalf of JCSC Connect.

JCSC Connect: Can you tell us about your family?
Amita: I am married to Shailesh Desai and we have two children Aakash (27) and Amman (24).

JCSC Connect: What is your profession?
Amita: Teaching in the pathshala inspired me to get my teaching credentials. This is my 14th year of teaching in a middle school.

JCSC Connect: What’s your favorite part of teaching?
Amita: My favorite part of teaching is hearing words of profound wisdom from my students and bragging about them. Some of the words I recall are:
“I am a slave to my desires.”
“I need to remove my jealousies”
“God is eternally happy because that is a choice he has made.”

JCSC Connect: What’s been your most memorable moment at as a teacher?
Amita: My most memorable moments are the maun day activities in our class. Each year, we celebrate self control by doing maun during class. Students are engaged in writing poetry, making a game, a bookmark. It is amazing how they achieve the goal of 60 minutes of silence while working alongside their friends.

JCSC Connect: How has teaching changed over the past decade? How have kids changed?
Amita: Teaching practices have become more interactive in the present times. Today’s students are more aware of social justice and environmental issues.

JCSC Connect: What advice do you have for parents that are looking to pass on our Jain values to their kids?
Amita: The school education teaches skills for earning a livelihood. The emphasis is on how to talk, read, write and interact with the world. This learning feeds the brain and makes us more informed. But, pathshala teaches wisdom for life here and after. The emphasis is on how to manage the thoughts and emotions. It is about interacting with the self. The goal is to for the students to become discriminating practitioners of the Jain principles. This learning nourishes the soul and helps us take charge of our destiny - it transforms us.

JCSC Connect: Are you ever surprised by kids questions anymore?
Amita: I am more surprised by the wisdom of the great atmas that share their journey with me. I remember the lessons they teach me and use them daily in my life. I am truly blessed to have done swadhyay with the children of the Jain community.
The Compassionate Prince Nemkumar
Submitted by Biren Mehta

About 5,000 years ago, Prince Nemkumar was born into a royal family. At that time, hunting and eating non-vegetarian food was quite common. Despite some hesitation, the young prince had agreed that he would marry a beautiful and graceful girl, Rajul.

During the wedding procession, Nemkumar saw many animals fenced up and crying loudly. Filled with compassion, he asked his charioteer why the animals were locked up. After learning that those animals would be killed to feed the guests at the wedding, he couldn’t bear the thought of his wedding being the cause of such a violence. He immediately ordered the release of the animals.

In thinking about preventing this violence, he asked himself ‘Can there be a way of life that would extend peace and security to every living being?’ In that deep contemplation, he realized that marriage would not be his path, and instead he would become an ascetic. Though initially shaken up when she heard the news, Rajul decided that she would follow his footsteps.

After renouncing the worldly life, Nemkumar spent 54 days in deep meditation and became Ne-minath Bhagwan. He spent the rest of his life preaching the path of liberation to common people. It was at Girnar mountain (400km southwest of Ahmedabad) that His soul left the body and traveled to Siddhashila. About 850 years ago, a temple was erected on Mt. Girnar, and thousands of people each year make the important pilgrimage to visit it.
Word Scramble

Directions: Unscramble each of the clue words. Copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number.

Word Search

The 3 and 4 year old students, in their first year of JCYC Pathshala learn a song about the 14 dreams that Queen Trishlamata experiences with Mahavir Swami in her womb.

The song goes like this: elephant, bull, and lion, laxmidevi and garland, peaceful moon, bright red sun, flag and pot, oh what fun lotus lake, bright white sea heavenly car, jewels like stars smokeless fire completes our dreams by Mahavir’s mom, who was the queen.

Can you find the underlined words in the word search?
On March 23, 2014, ten pathshala students attended the Annual Youth forum held by the Interfaith Youth Council of Orange County (IYCOC) at Rosary High School, a catholic school located in Brea. The event drew 16-18 year olds representing 10 different religions and faiths to discuss a pre determined topic, “The role of Scripture in your Religion”. The children prepared answers ahead of time to three broad questions pertaining to their religion and shared their answers with their peers from other faiths.

The questions were:
1) What is the role of scriptures in your religion?
2) How does your faith discuss social injustice and justice.
3) What role do women play in your tradition?

Ideas and reflections were shared through discussions.

There were over 140 participants at the forum. Tables were set up across the school gymnasium, with each table consisting of a small group of about 10 participants and 1 coordinator to help facilitate the discussions. The youth were there to learn from one another and to spread awareness of their own religion. Participants represented eastern and western religions. There were Catholics, Protestants, Mormons, Zoroastrians, Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Muslims, Jews and also Atheists.

The event began with a candle lighting ceremony as a symbol for the light of knowledge. The use of light, in the form of candle or lamp (diya), was a common link across most religions. It also represented the role the forum that it played in breaking down the barriers of darkness and ignorance that caused mistrust in other faiths.

At the individual tables, before diving into the questions, each group was first asked to make a fun poster for their table. This was intended to “break the ice” between the participants to make them feel at ease. Most participants felt that the environment was one where they could discuss their personal faith without the fear of being judged. Alisha Mehta, one of the participants from our Pathshala said, “Participating in the Interfaith forum was like practicing Anekantvad. It allowed us to experience multiplicity of views.” Sanam Chekuri shared that, “Today was eye opening for me, I learned about different religions and saw that when it comes down to the basics, all religions were tremendously alike.”

The full day event lasted about six hours with some breaks between discussions where the participants got a chance to mingle with each other. This was the first year that the conference lasted for twodays. On the previous day, March 22nd, the youth were given an opportunity to show how they “expressed their Religion through Art”. Our talented Jain Center youth did an outstanding job by performing a dance on the Navkaar Mantra that was a fusion of Kathak and Bharat Natyam, and by doing a live demonstration of making a rangoli design on the floor in front of visitors of all faiths.

Our pathshala students have been participating in this annual event for over 4 years now. In 2013 we hosted the event at the Jain Center with over 145 participants. Our students also participated in the IYCOC Board. This year Pranati Shah and Apurva Modi are on the IYCOC Board.
When we hear the word “Bhakti”, we immediately think about a gathering where devotees have gathered to express their devotion with melodious bhaktipads or stavans. But the meaning of Bhakti is a lot broader.

Bhakti comes from the word “Bhaj” which means “to be attached or devoted to”. It is pure unselfish love mixed with reverence. Bhakti is the basis of all religious life. Bhakti destroys Vasanas and Aham. Bhakti elevates the mind to magnanimous heights. Bhakti is the key to open the chambers of wisdom. Bhakti culminates in Gyan. Bhakti or devotion in the form of Anuraga or attachment to the Lord leads to the highest good or the attainment of self-realization.

In all religious traditions, Prayer is considered as a universally accepted mode of communication between the devotee and the divine. Praying to the Almighty God is kind of universal because no elaborate preparation is required. When we pray it is our inner connection with God. The only real instrument that is required to approach God is divine love which is untainted by selfish motives or falsehoods. In its purest form prayer is the pouring out of our heart before God.

a) If prayers could please Siddha (a liberated soul), then some prayers could also displease Siddha. The soul, when it has become Siddha, has no desires or motivations left. Its character is purely that of a knower and a seer.

b) If Siddha could bestow favors, then attributing such human frailties to a Siddha (liberated soul) is to deny the soul’s liberation.

However, it would also be totally wrong to say that prayers have no place in Jain philosophy. Jains do not consider prayers as a means of seeking favors from Siddha or even Arihantas. True Jain prayers are nothing but the appreciation and adoration of the virtues possessed by the supreme beings and the expression of ardent desire to achieve these virtues in one’s own life. It is for this reason that Jain scriptures have actually enumerated the virtues of supreme souls such as Arihanta, Siddha, Āchārya, Upādhyāy and Sādhu.

Bhakti (Devotion and Prayer) and Pujā (Worship) are interwoven in the daily lives of Jains and are considered a part of their daily conduct (Vyāvhār). This daily conduct should lead us to dedication (Nischay) and to the path of realization of absolute purest form of our own self - the soul.

Resources: http://www.soas.ac.uk/ssai and http://sivanandaonline.org/
Communicating with the Divine

"अब हम अमर जयः न मरेंगे"

(आनंदधनुज महाराजनुं ओढ़ लक्षिपह)
- महेन्द्राधीश शाह

योगीराज आनंदधनुज ने आत्मशान यता जै आत्मानुं शानन आयवूं छे, तेना कारण जे आयवान स्वास्थ्य भाज्यों हे, तेनी भुमार्टीनी अविविक्कति बेटेले अवधूत योगी आनंदधनुज महाराज नु आ अमर पत, आपणं मार्गहरुण करे छे.

"अब हम अमर जयः न मरेंगे या कारण मिथ्यात हियो तजः, कयूं कर देख परेंगे?" अब. 1

योगीराज जी नी आ पंक्तिमां भेदनली भनखिति नु प्रकाशन करे छे के "हुं मनेज देख मानी बेशवानी बुझ करो हतो। देखवाना स्वास्थ्यवाची हुं आधारी बलो। विनाशकाू भविजनारी विपरीत मान्यता भेटेके मिथ्यात्मना हतो।

मने हवे हाननो कारणो दृष्ट्यो के आ जन्म मरणस् नु भूण तो हेंकी ममता हतुं। हवे जयारे आ सान भयूं त्यारे हवे "कारण नो ज नाश करे, भार्य नाश" ओ उठतियी ग्रेशभने मिथ्यात नो नाश ("या कारण मिथ्यात हियो तजः") करो। हेंकी मोहो रकोंही दीयों हे, देह मायव नथी रहो ("कयूं कर देख परेंगे") तो पाणी कम करींने देख धार्य दरींगी?

"राग दोस जन बंध करत है, दुश्की नाश करेंगे; महाूं अनंत काल में प्राप्त है, हों हम काल हरेंगे" अब. 2

पदना आ भीव तरसामां आनंदधनुज महाराज चौके कम करता अमर यथा एनुं केलन करता आपातेण अमरत्व नी प्राप्त नो मार्जी बताता हे। मिथ्यात्मोक्ष ने कारण जे राग अने देख ना दीयो उत्पन्न हरी संसारमां भरकमां नो बंध करता हंता ते धर्मो महेंद्रनीय विवाह नो नाश कर्यो हे। तेनाय यातित्र मोहनीय विवाह नो पाणी नाश करींगी, हवे शुष्क आत्मा ज अनुवाद हत्ये।

योगीराज जे केक समापनी उजामां दे हे छे "के मृत्युःनु ही समान काल, नुं मृत प्राप्तीना प्राप्ने ने अनाथी अनंत काली हरें आप्त हे। अनंतीयार महाूं छु। धारा के त्यारे हुं अनाथी मोक्षीय सावन नो गुलाम हतो। परंतु हवे आ आत्मा तो परमात्मा बन्यो हे। मोक्ष यता मृत्युःनु हुसी तथा कालित्व धंह अखण्ड बनी कालजने पाणी हरेंगी।"

"देह विनाशी हुं अविनाशी, अपणी जगत पकडेंगे; नाशी जसी हम खिलती हासी, योंमे हे निधोंगे" अब. 3
આનંદઘન ની આંત પુમારી, પણ ની આ તીવ્ર ગાથામાં જાલ્લે છે. જ્ઞામને મરાણ એ પુષ્કળ પરમાણુભાઇ લબેલા દેખણી ધરમ છે. આતમની સામાન્ય રહેલ જગત છબી છે. સર્વશાસ કંઈ રહેત છે, મુક્ત છે પોતાની ઉદ્યોગિત - અબ ગાત પકરેલી - પકરે છે તો લોકાં ગૌરિ સ્વર્ણ તાર છે.

"નાસી જાણી હંમ વિશ્વવાસી" - કાયા સાથે આભૂશાષ પ્રષ્ણી જે સુઝી સંબંધ બનાવ્યો છે, તે સુપ્રીમ્ની સમજ કાયામાં આંકો પકર્યો. એ સમય પૂરી તત્તા માટે નાસી જાણી અને કાયાથી એ પુષ્કળ સાથી હોવાથી હોવાથી કેરનાંતર કરી જાણી.

"હંમ વિશ્વવાસી" - જયારે દુઃ સ્વાધીની અકાલ, કાયારીત સખિ. મારા સ્વાધીમાં વિશ્વવાસ કરવા મારી પોતાની ઉદ્યોગ ગાતી પકરી અને સપ્ત વિક્ષેળો, સર્વ આવાજો દૂર કરી - "ઓને જે નિખરણે" - સમયો શોભાઓ, પરિપૂર્ણ શુભ્ર વિશ્વવાસ પતિનૂં થાકો વિકશીલ, નીચીરીલ.

"માં અનત્યાર બિન સમજો, અબ સુખ દ્વાર વિસરજેં; આનંદીન નિખરત કશ્કલ હો, નથી સમય ઉસ મહર્જે" અવ. 4

મસરાયાય અને અમેરાપાણ અદેલે જ મલય અને અભિરુચિ, એ બે દશાની, એ બે સયાની જાતી જાતી નોંધાને કાસ્ત અને સમજમાં મારા આતમને અનાદન અનતય કાયામાં અનત્યાર છે. જ્ઞામ મરાણ નું કાલ વેચણી છે. હવે એ સુખ અને જ્ઞામ મરાણ દરમાં જ્ઞામાં કારણ જ્ઞાત પરતુ વેચણ કહતા તેથી વધારે વસ્તી પકરી દેખણ્યું - અદેલે ક સમય સમજો જાણી જણ્યું અને સમજો સુખ - કાલમાં બંધાયી પર વધા જણ્યું. મહામહોપાયાય પણ કહે છે કે:

"લક્ષણ દૃષ્ટલ ભયુ કેલવાસાગર ચલ શરાનું સુમદાયી 
જ્ઞાત કહે વધાન પ્રુતખ ધાર્તલ અસર અમદ પણ પાટી 
હેં સલાત મિત્રવાત સમયી રે આજ આનંદી ધ્રુ આદ"

આનંદીની ધન સુમદાય બનાવનાર નિખરાં સમીપ રહેતા એ અર્ક શાંતી છે કે મૂલ્ય અને કાલ. "આનંદીન નિખરણ કશ્કલ હો, નથી સમય ઉસ મહર્જે" એ બે નખજહના પરાયાયય શાંતીનું સ્વર રાખી છે. જે નિવારણે લખ્યો બાયુની છે તેઓ જ જ્ઞાતને તયાર અને કાયાને રહેતા હોય તે આતમાં પૂર્વસૃષ્ટ સુખસફોટ હોયા. જેણે મૂલ્ય અને કાલ શાંત નું સ્વર નહીં હોય તેવા જ્ઞાત ચાલુ બની જવા અને વિદ્યાનાં કાલ થોડો કરનાં મરી. મૂલ્ય અને કાલ ને સંતત સ્વરમાં રાખી જવા તો થોડું જ્ઞાત જવા કે જ્ઞામ શાંત લગ કેઠ મોક નહીં હોય. આજી માનીતાભારી લાખ નિર્દિષ્ટ જગતા જવાને શાંત-અશાંતા, જ્ઞામ-મરાણ થી પર, અંજા-અમાર અવિનાશી આનંદીન બનાવશે.

ડી શાંતિ:, શાંતિ:, શાંતિ:
The Tuesday Swadhyay is conducted by Hasendrabhai Shah on every Tuesday from 8:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. The current topic of discussion is 14 Gunsthanak – 14 Stages of Spiritual Growth.

All Jains should have a goal of ultimately achieving “Moksha” or True Liberation of the self. Such lofty goal of achieving liberation happens in a gradual spiritual purification process. In the Jain classic cannons, this process has been described as one taking place in 14 stages. While the each stage has meaning that describes the nature of that stage and how one can achieve it.

It is a journey of the soul from the least evolved form of life, Nigod” (1st stage) to the highest and the purest form of life, Siddha.(14th stage). This journey is not always in one upward straight line progression but can entail several ups and downs, peaks and valleys in the journey to the perfectness.

Most of the living beings spend the longest time (innumerable lifecycles) in the first stage of spiritual state “Mithyatva”. The fourth stage of “Samyaktva” is the true beginning of the upward spiritual Journey of a soul, which still can entail many ups and down. However when one has attained Samyaktva, he/she will definitely attain Moksha in future.

There are do’s and don’ts, whys and hows, about this journey and it is the journey that doesn’t happen to all living beings. It can be a very long journey for some and it could be a short one for others. Anyone wanting to reach the ultimate goal needs to make a passage through the path shown by Tirthankars.

The Tuesday swadhyays are not preaching sessions but learning sessions where anyone can participate. Would you like to find out which stage you are at in your spiritual journey? Join us and start the journey…
The Jain Study Group (JSG) – Group A class is conducted by Rajnikant Modi and Pallavi Gala on every Sunday from 10am to Noon

The topics covered in the Group A sessions are from ‘Mokshmala’ by Pujya Shrimad Rajchandra, ‘Trishasti Shalaka Purush Charita’ By Pujya Shri Hemchandracharya and several other scriptures.

Mokshmala was composed by Shrimad Rajchandra at the age of sixteen years and five months and it was completed within three days in Vikram Samvat 1940 or 1884 A.D. It contains 108 short easy to understand lessons in Gujarati based on the teachings of Lord Mahavir that guide us on the path to liberation.

The common worldly literature provides the information of worldly life; however, this scripture is for the ethical and spiritual benefit of readers in this life as well as the next. One of the objectives of this book is to provide a sound ethical foundation for the youth to build a righteous life and spiritual outlook. This is considered to be an excellent book for the beginners in order to develop interest in spiritual growth.

Shri Trishasti Shalaka Purush Charitra was written about 900 years ago by Pujya Shri Hemchandracharya and it contains biographies of 63 greatest personalities including 24 Tirthankaras in the Jain tradition.

Here is an example of type of topics discussed in the class.

Ten Commandments for Householders by Pujya Shri Atmanandaji

1. Honestly and sincerely fulfill your duties towards family, job, community and self.
2. Keep the expenses significantly lower than the income.
3. Use time efficiently and judiciously.
4. Strive hard to seek association of noble people.
5. See a supreme soul in every living being to experience peace and universal friendliness.
6. Have a solid unshakeable faith in God and cultivate a total surrender to Him.
7. Have a firm conviction that faith, patience, and perseverance form the foundation of any successful task.
8. Speak slowly, lovingly, respectfully, and only when necessary.
9. Read spiritual and character-building books.
10. Maintain cleanliness and organization in all aspects of life.
The Sunday Adult Class is conducted by Girishbhai Shah on alternate Sundays from 10am to Noon. "Tattvarth Sutra" by Pujya Umasvati Maharaj Saheb is the current topic of discussion.

Tattvarth Sutra is an ancient magnum opus which is deeply revered and sanctified in the Jaina Tradition.

It is by common consent the book of books in the Jain tradition. Acclaimed as an authentic and systematic compendium of the essence of Jain Darshan as taught and settled by Lord Mahavir, and faithfully rooted in the Jain heritage, it commands the allegiance of the different denominations (sampradayas-sects) within the Jain fold and its authority is definitive and undisputed. An inspired and encyclopedic achievement of extraordinary scholarship, it is a compact essay on cognition (knowledge-Gnyan) and conduct (Charitra-achar), a synthesis of science (vignyan) and ethics (adhyatma) in the framework of philosophy (Tattva Gnyan). It investigates and catalogs the two basic verities of the world, soul (Atma) and substance (Pudgal-Jad Dravya); it also draws a route map to the goal of liberation (Moksha).

The Jain philosophy, so articulately expressed by Pujya Umasvati M.S., establishes harmony between the religious (Dharma) and the scientific (Vignyan), between the spiritual (Adhyatmic) and the physical (Sansaric), and between personal independence and social, economic and ecological interdependence.

Tattvarth Sutra is based on the premise that the goal of human life is liberation which is defined as Perfect Knowledge (Anant Gnyan), Perfect Intuition (Anant Darshan) and Eternal Bliss (Anant Sukh). Pujya Umasvati M.S. begins his treatise by describing the path to liberation as Enlightened World-View (Samyag Darshan), Enlightened Knowledge (Samyag Gnyan) and Enlightened Conduct (Samyag Charitra).

By learning and understanding the essence of the Jain Darshan as prescribed in the Tattvarth Sutra, we all can achieve our ultimate goal of Moksha and the immediate goal of ‘SAMAKIT’. It is never too late to join the Sunday Class and start on the path of learning about how to manifest our own inherent Gnyan and Anand.
Compassion, a pillar of Jain religion, is the basis for ahimsa, a core virtue. Compassion is an emotion that we feel in response to the suffering of others that motivates a desire to help. The etymology of “compassion” in Latin means “co-suffering.” It is more than empathy; it is a desire to alleviate or reduce another’s suffering. It is not pity but to understand someone’s dukh (pain and unhappiness that others are experiencing).

Bhagwan Mahavira says, “Compassion to others is compassion to one’s self.” Parasparopagraho jivanam “The function of souls is to help one another.” Kindness and compassion toward all living beings plays a major role in the spiritual progress of the soul, to uplift it towards liberation. One Jain story that portrays karuna is “The Compassion of the Elephant” who saved the rabbit taking shelter under his foot in a wild forest fire that lasted for three days. As a result of his compassion and kindness, the elephant was reborn as Prince Meghkumar in his next life.

Compassion brings forth positive change in the world around us and transforms our inner self. Compassion goes beyond gratification; it has benefits which are both spiritual and emotional. Small acts of compassion, things we can do without looking for reward or praise, can move us and bring us to tears. Traditionally, Jains are compassionate and have revered animals by protecting, feeding and caring for them. There are many established panjarapoles (animal and bird sanctuaries) and hospitals in India. Through Seva (selfless service) and donations, Jains help people less fortunate by providing food, clothing and shelter. Appreciation and adoration of the virtues possessed by the supreme beings and the expression of ardent desire to achieve these virtues in one’s own life. It is for this reason that Jain scriptures have actually enumerated the virtues of supreme souls such as Arihanta, Siddha, Acharya, Upadhyay and Sadhu.
Stavan Shah - A Small Boy with a Big Heart

What does a typical seven year old boy want to do on his birthday? Have a party with friends and get a bunch of gifts, right? Not Stavan Shah. Instead of getting something, he wanted to give, he wanted to see others happy. How did this happen? We wanted to find out. Here is an excerpt of Jayanaben Shah’s talk with Stavan.

JCSC Connect: Stavan, how did you get involved? Where did you get the idea?
Stavan: Last year my mom told me that we were donating school supplies like notebooks, pens, pencils at derasar where TCCOP was holding a donation drive. I was sad to hear about this. I never have to worry about pens, pencils, notebooks, and other things for school. I wanted to participate in school drive also. When I was 5, we went to India, to celebrate my birthday we had gone to orphanage home and gave candies and toys. My birthday was coming so instead of gifts I asked for money to buy more materials to donate them at the school.

JCSC Connect: How did your friends react?
Stavan: They were happy. I was also happy. Some of my friends were surprised that I did not want gifts for myself. Some of my derasar friends are doing same thing for their birthday. I was invited to the assembly by the principal to meet the kids. That was a lot of fun.

JCSC Connect: I understand you participated this year also.
Stavan: This year I collected money for my birthday day and I am giving money to Farm Sanctuary. My uncle is going to Africa in the summer. The kids there need shoes so I am collecting shoes to send them with my uncle.

Stavan Shah is a young star with a big heart. He attends Mommy and Me class in JCYC Pathshala where they learn that “sharing is giving”. Kudos to Stavan for making a difference in the lives of those in need.

Performing Small Acts of Compassion

What happens when you put Seva and Compassion together? You get a group of people who came together a few years ago with the intention of performing small acts of compassion. They realized that donating money alone was not fulfilling or satisfying their hearts. They wanted to participate actively and be involved in helping others. Their goal was to experience gratification that was sustainable and repeated as the results of their actions benefitted others. They started to change the world around them, one act at a time.

Tender Care Community Outreach Program (TCCOP) came to fruition. There are a variety of activities TCCOP gets involved within the JCSC community as well as the surrounding neighborhood and cities. Their motto is “if there is a need, we want to try to fulfill it, let’s find a way.” TCCOP volunteers use 100% of the donations for helping others. Their time is spent on serving local members. Just a glimpse of their selfless service includes taking cancer patients to their doctor’s appointment or chemotherapy or providing companionship to lonely seniors or treating them to lunch or dinner on their birthday. On an on-going basis, they organize drives by collecting and distributing school supplies, toys, gently used clothing, non-perishable food items to local charities.

Locally, TCCOP serves weekly vegetarian breakfast, monthly dinner and sack lunches at homeless shelters. Vegetarian grocery is provided on a regular basis and few people at one of the shelters have become vegetarian. The lead cook prepares more vegetarian and healthy meals. She lost 60 pounds and has recovered from her ailing health issues. Recently, a college bound student needed a computer, so one was donated to help this student on the road to success. Middle School students from a nearby town wanted to participate in science fair, TCCOP provided seed money. Out of the 700 entries from 52 states, this group was selected as one of the 100 groups to attend the national science fair in Virginia. For most, this will be the first time they will travel on a plane. Some of these students feel more academically prepared and may apply for college, which was once just a dream, and be one of the first in their family to go onto higher education.

If you know of anyone that needs assistance, or would like to celebrate an occasion by donating to TCCOP, please reach out to of the TCCOP committee members. Contact number: 714-856-4256.
Imagine a retired gentleman coming to you with a business idea. He says “How about you and I, put all our life savings together. We start a company. We don’t take any external funding. We give away 60% of our services for free. We market exclusively to the people who cannot pay us. We commit to world class quality. We don’t take any donations and do not do any fundraising. Are you in?”

Sounds absurd, doesn’t it? But this is exactly how a retired eye surgeon started a business 38 years ago in a temple city in South India. The organization he started on this seemingly bizarre framework is today the largest provider of eye care in the world. He aligned his head, heart and hands. He integrated a heart of service with deep spiritual aspirations and the best practices of business. His name was Dr. Govindappa Venkataswamy, better known as Dr. V by colleagues and friends.

He serves as an inspiring individual epitomizing compassion, service to others, and social entrepreneurship. His story starts with him growing up as a boy in a village with dreams of becoming a doctor. However, while serving as a physician in the army in his thirties, he was diagnosed with severe rheumatoid arthritis, an excruciating condition that caused his body to attack his joints. “Pain has been a constant companion. It has never left me,” he said decades later. This disease left him permanently crippled with his fingers and toes bent out of position. Regardless of this pain, Dr. V still wanted to serve others. Even with his physical restrictions, he decided to pursue becoming an eye doctor and trained himself to perform precise eye surgeries.

Dr. V started his journey as a social entrepreneur with an 11-bed clinic in Madurai, Tamil Nadu. That little clinic has evolved into The Aravind Eye Care System, the largest and most productive provider of eye care in the world. He used the seemingly basic principle of compassion to run his entire business. The guiding principles behind the hospital were: turn no one away, regardless of whether they can pay or not; give everyone the same high quality of care; and be self-reliant i.e. do not depend on any other organization or philanthropist. Dr. V was trying to solve a problem. In India and other developing countries, there are millions of people who were blind due to cataracts, a condition that is easily treatable. The problem was that care was hard to access since 70% of India’s population lived in the rural villages and the 80% of medical facilities were in urban areas. Dr. V decided to go to the people and set up medical camps to treat hundreds of thousands of people. Aravind Hospital now sees 2.7 million patients every year and unbelievably treats the majority of these patients for free. Patients decide how much they want to pay for their care, from zero to market rates.
Here are some other significant impacts that Dr. V and Aravind were able to accomplish:

- For the last 18 years, every Harvard MBA has studied the Aravind case and it has become an example for social entrepreneurs worldwide.
- Dr. V decided that he wanted to give away all of this knowledge in an effort to rid the world of blindness. 15% of all ophthalmologists in India and thousands of professionals from 69 countries have undergone some form of training at Aravind.
- When Intro-Ocular Lenses (IOL’s) were introduced to the western world, global health professionals called it a “luxury that developing countries could ill-afford.” Dr. V disagreed and started to manufacture his own, thus driving the price down globally from $150 to $10. Aurolab, Aravind Eye Care System’s manufacturing facility, now makes 7% of all IOL’s in the world.
- Dr. V developed systems today that allow Aravind surgeons to do more than 5 times the number of cataract surgeries done by an Indian doctor (and 10 times what a US physician does).

Dr. V lived his life and guided Aravind in line with four unwritten directives, ones that our Jain community can relate to and implement in their own lives:

1. **Stay rooted in compassion.**
2. **Serve and deserve.** Provide value and relevance in unexpected places. Generate trust and goodwill.
3. **Create a movement not dominance.** Think cooperation, not competition.
4. **Practice for perfect vision.** Dr. V believed as much as there are external forms of blindness, there are internal forms of blindness: anger, greed, jealousy. All of these things cloud our vision, make it hard to see what is, and what the right next step is. When we consciously attempt to grow in self-awareness and compassion we become better instruments for good.

In her speech about the Dr. V, at the Wisdom 2.0 Business 2013 conference, Pavithra Mehta, co-author of “Infinite Vision”, sums up the essence of this story. “Certain stories are like eye surgery. They have the capacity to help us see the world and each other and our place on this earth a little bit better.”

View Pavi’s talk here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=65TLzg7GShw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=65TLzg7GShw)

*Hard times build determination and inner strength. Through them we can also come to appreciate the uselessness of anger. Instead of getting angry nurture a deep caring and respect for troublemakers because by creating such trying circumstances they provide us with invaluable opportunities to practice tolerance and patience.*

- *Dalai Lama XIV*
Recipe for Healthy Living

Khajoor (Date) Kheer
Provided by Reena Shah

Food is one of the very important mediums through which people practice Jainism. This column will be devoted to a Jain recipe in each issue of the magazine. Your contributions to this column are welcome.

Serving size: 2 bowls

Preparation Time: 20 minutes

Ingredients:
• 15–20 pitted dates
• 4 cups milk
• 8–10 saffron strands (optional)
• pinch of nutmeg powder
• 1/4 teaspoon cardamom powder
• 1 teaspoon ghee

Method/Preparation:
Wash the dates thoroughly and chop finely. In a thick bottomed pan, heat ghee, add half the chopped dates and sauté for 2 minutes over low flame. Add 3.5 cups of milk to it and bring it to a boil and allow it to simmer.

In a blender coarsely grind the other half of the dates adding the remaining half cup of milk. Empty this coarsely ground paste in in the same thick bottomed pan in which the rest of the milk is boiling.

Prepare saffron by rubbing it in 1 tsp warm milk until the milk turns orange. Set aside.

Now keep stirring the milk continuously to avoid lumps and continue cooking over low flame for 7 – 8 minutes. Dates add their own sweetness to this kheer, but if you like it sweeter, add a couple teaspoons of sugar to it. The date paste will thicken the milk.

Stir the prepared saffron into the kheer along with the nutmeg and cardamom powder. Switch off the flame and cool the date and milk mixture. Once it cools down, empty it in a glass bowl and put it in the refrigerator to become cold. Serve chilled.
Practicing Jain Principles

Are You Chasing the Bubbles?
Written by Dilip Parekh

People meditate for various reasons: to improve health, to reduce stress, to keep the mind calm and stay focused. Similarly there are many ways to meditate: focusing on an object, chanting a mantra, body scanning, body movements, focusing on breathing, etc. During most of these meditation practices, we try to keep our mind calm by reducing our thoughts and emotions. But what actually happens there is interesting. Many early practitioners say that the traffic of thoughts actually increases. This could be frustrating for the beginners.

Another way to meditate is not to stop the flow of thoughts but just to watch them. The idea is to separate ourselves from our thoughts. According to the Jain philosophy, thinking is the job of the mind whereas the characteristic of the soul is to know and to watch. During this meditation, you separate yourself from the thoughts and not get involved with them or engulfed by them. Our normal tendency is to chase every thought, which in fact, can be very exhausting. How do we change this habit?

Have you ever played with soap water bubbles? You take a little soap water in a cup, dip a plastic stick in it that has a round ring at the end. You take out the stick and a film of soap covers the ring. You hold it up near your mouth, blow gently in to the film of soap and watch the stream of bubbles of various sizes fly up towards the blue sky! It is so much fun to watch these bubbles move up, dance around and eventually burst. But imagine yourself running after each of these bubbles! You may have some fun in the beginning but soon you will get exhausted.

Are you chasing the bubbles of thoughts and emotions during your meditation? That can be very tiring! Learn to just watch them and enjoy. Just like the bubbles, thoughts are your creation, they can wander all over the place; but know that they are temporary. You can separate yourself from them and just be a witness.

Next time you meditate and the thoughts start bothering you, visualize the soap bubbles, and enjoy!
Recently I read a book on Runanubandh which was an eye opener for me as it changed my way of looking at people I meet or have met in the past. It is such a powerful concept that it actually simplifies the way in which we look at things.

Runanubandh = debt + anubandh = emotional bond that we have from previous life with someone. In each life, we have mother, father, brothers, sisters, spouse, children, and so on. We are born in a family as a result of undischarged debts of past lives. We are constantly creating karmic account, debiting and crediting with relationships. In other words, we are creating Karmic debts with all those with whom we interact. The Karmic debts lead to bondage or attachment (bandha). These Karmic attachments pull us into the wheel of existence again and again. Runanubandh (the bond that results from Karmic debts) is at the root of transmigration.

With this knowledge it is easier to understand that there is no person that we meet today is insignificant. We meet people for a reason in our lives and develop shubh and ashubh runanubandh with them. After reading this book, my attitude towards people changed; now my goal is to develop shubh bhaav and shubh runanubandh with everyone who I meet or know. Having shubh bhaav is better than having ashubh bhaav for anyone. It is not an easy task and quite challenging especially when we encounter people at work or elsewhere whom we do not necessarily approve of. But now it serves as a good reminder to think that if a person does not have shubh bhaav towards me it could be due to my ashubh runanubandh in some previous life. Hence, in order for me to progress in my spiritual path, it is important to develop shub runanubandh all the time. This has really helped me practice the Jain way of life in a very special way.

...my attitude towards people changed; now my goal is to develop shubh bhaav and shubh runanubandh with everyone who I meet or know.
JCSC Organizations and Activities

**Jain Center Youth Council (JCYC)**
JCSC chartered JCYC in 1982 with an objective of teaching religion, languages, traditions and culture to the younger generation. JCYC also provides an opportunity for children to make friends and cultivate a sense of belonging, while training them as future leaders.

**Adult Swadhyay Group**
Swadhyays are held on Monday through Thursday evenings and on Sunday morning. Web broadcast, phone conference and audio/video recordings are available for remote listeners.

**Jain Study Group (JSG)**
JSG provides an interactive and educational experience to those striving for spiritual growth and self-improvement. This group discusses the philosophical concepts of Jainism in English and motivates one another to incorporate them into their lives. There are two groups – Group A and Group B. Group A classes are held at Jain Center on pathshala Sundays. For those who want to delve deeper into Jain philosophy, the Group B classes are conducted in Gujarati on the non-pathshala Sundays.

**Jain Association of Young Adults (JAYA)**
JAYA is focused on connecting young adults through cultural, religious and community-wide programs to build strong foundation within the Jain community of Southern California. JAYA is dedicated to connecting Jain young adults (ages 25 to 50) who share similar heritage, values and benefits.

**The Jain Senior Association**
This association was formed in September 1996 to conduct social, cultural and religious activities for senior members of JCSC. Membership has grown to comprise more than 150 families. It also provides entertainment and unique opportunities to develop friendship with others. Regular activities include musical programs, singing competitions, seminars, picnics, sight-seeing tours, Chaitya Paripati, temple tours, and visits to museums and other places of interest.

**Mahavir Mahila Mandal**
Since past 21 years “Mahavir Mahila Mandal” has been actively participating in religious activities of the Jain Center. Mandal is conducting various types of pujas such as snatra puja, kalyanak puja, vastupuja and taking active part in any pujan conducted by vidhikar during JCSC events like New Year, Gyan Panchmi, Pat Darshan, Ayambil oli, JCSC Anniversary, Paryushan, Das Lakshana, and Chaudus pratikraman.
Other Organizations & Activities

Anekant Community Center (ACC)
ACC was formed in 2005 and was registered as non-religious/nonprofit organization. Outreach Programs within JCSC are also coordinated with the ACC.

The goals of ACC are:

• To foster, promote and support Health, Education, Cultural and Community awareness.
• To educate and assist Seniors to improve their quality of life.
• To teach, commemorate and celebrate cultural activities.
• To perform a variety of community outreach programs.

For more information, contact Kantibhai Shah (949) 459-8299 or kanitilal.shah@jaincenter.net

Jain Association in North America (JAINA)
A concept to unite all Jain Centers in the United States and Canada under one umbrella was proposed by JCSC in 1980. The first national JAINA convention hosted by JCSC in LA in May 1981 and also hosted the 15th Biennial JAINA convention held in our new facility in July 2009. Since 1981, JCSC has continued to play a significant role to help JAINA, Young Jains of America (YJA) and Young Jain Professionals (YJP).

JCSC Ongoing Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAY 2014</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat 3</td>
<td>Monthly Snatra Pooja, Jap, Bhatu, Navkaar Mantra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 4</td>
<td>JCYC Patshala, Adult Swadhyay, JSG (Group A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 11</td>
<td>JSG (Group B)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 13</td>
<td>Chaudas Pratikraman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 18</td>
<td>JCYC Patshala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 25</td>
<td>JSG (Group B)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 27</td>
<td>Chaudas Pratikraman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 30</td>
<td>Monthly Bhavna Bhakti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 31</td>
<td>Monthly Snatra Pooja, Jap, Bhatu, Navkaar Mantra</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JUNE 2014</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun 1</td>
<td>JCYC Patshala, Adult Swadhyay, JSG (Group A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 8</td>
<td>JCYC Patshala, Adult Swadhyay, JSG (Group A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 12</td>
<td>Chaudas Pratikraman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 15</td>
<td>JSG (Group B)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 22</td>
<td>JSG (Group B)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 26</td>
<td>Chaudas Pratikraman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 27</td>
<td>Monthly Bhavna Bhakti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 28</td>
<td>Monthly Snatra Pooja, Jap, Bhatu, Navkaar Mantra</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JULY 2014</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 11</td>
<td>Chaudas Pratikraman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 25</td>
<td>Monthly Bhavna Bhakti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 25</td>
<td>Chaudas Pratikraman</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

JCSC Lifetime Tithis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAY 2014</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 5</td>
<td>Sheth Rasiklal &amp; Manjulaben - Punyatithi of Manguiben Sheth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 11</td>
<td>Dr Nitinbhai &amp; Kinnaben Shah - For mother Rasilaiben Shah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 16</td>
<td>Shah Nilesh &amp; Krina - For Ramilaben Nanalal Shah</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JUNE 2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue 10</td>
<td>Shah Sumati, Bharti, Kirit &amp; Nayna - Punyatithi of Lilaben Shah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 25</td>
<td>Shah Girish &amp; Pravina - For Manchhaben Chunilal Shah</td>
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</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>JULY 2014</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat 5</td>
<td>Shah Nilesh &amp; Krina - For Ratilal Mohanlal Shah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 17</td>
<td>Chheda Vijay &amp; Madhu - For Panbai Dharshi Chheda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 24</td>
<td>Shah, Dr Nitinbhai and Kinnaben- Punyatithi of Kevin Gandhi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please send the photograph and details you want to display on the TV, at least one week in advance to Gaurav Shah by email at gaurav.shah@jaincenter.net
**JCSC Upcoming Events**

**Swadhyays, Workshops & Shibirs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAY 2014</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 16</td>
<td>JCSC Anniversary Celebrations (See the details below)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 17</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 18</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 24</td>
<td>Swadhyay by Shrimati Tarlaben Doshi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 25</td>
<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JUNE 2014</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat 7</td>
<td>Job Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 13</td>
<td>Swadhyay Shibir by Pandit Dhirajlal Mehta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 21</td>
<td>Pravachans by Shri Rakeshbhai Jhaveri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 29</td>
<td>Shibir by Shri Girishbhai Shah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 30</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JULY 2014</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 18</td>
<td>Rajpad Shibir by Smrutiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 20</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** For all Snatra Pooja, Kalyanak Pooja, Ekasana, contact Padmaben Shah (714-932-0756). Snatra Pooja $101, each Pooja $51 Ekasana $751

**JCSC Anniversary Celebrations**

We will celebrate JCSC Anniversary from Friday, May 16 to Sunday, May 18. We are fortunate to have Shri Shrenikbhai Gala from India with us for this event.

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<table>
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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 16</td>
<td>7:30pm to 9:30pm: Bhakti Bhavana, Aarti-Mangal Divo in Derasar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 17</td>
<td>9:00am to Noon: Saraswati Aradhana in the Main Hall with Aagam Pujan followed by procession and Aagam Mandir Inauguration* followed by Swamivatsalya Lunch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 17</td>
<td>1:30pm to 5:30pm: 18 Abhisheks of all Gabhara &amp; Bhamati Bhagwans and Dev-Devis followed by Swamivatsalya Dinner</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 17</td>
<td>7:30pm to 9:30pm: Bhakti Bhavana, Aarti-Mangal Divo in Derasar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 18</td>
<td>10:00am to 1:00pm: Sattarbhedi Puja &amp; Dhwaja Changing Ceremony for Main Shikhar &amp; Gabhara idols followed by Swamivatsalya Lunch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Aagam Mandir - A New Addition to the Jain Center**

Aagams are canonical texts of Jain religion based on Bhagvan Mahavir’s preachings. Bhagvan Mahavir’s preaching - Tripadi, Upnnaiva, Vigmaiva, Dhuvevia - were orally complied by Gandhar Bhagvants into various sutras which were collectively called Aagams (Dwadsangi). At present, we don’t have Bhagvan Mahavir but we have His teachings in the form of Aagams. These are the most sacred Granths (books) of Jains.

A new architectural structure outside Rang Mandap of derasar is being prepared for 45 Aagams display. All 45 Aagams will be permanently displayed in this beautiful new Aagam Mandir for Darshan and Bhav Puja. All those who participated in Aagam Arpan & Aagam Pujan during the 25th Anniversary celebration will take part in this inauguration. Many others will also get a chance to participate in Sarswati Aradhana, Pujan, Procession and Installation.

Under the guidance of Shri Aagamchandrasagar maharaj saheb, the 45 Aagams have been handwritten on a special paper with a special ink. JCSC members are fortunate to have an opportunity to witness the installation of a permanent display of these Aagams in the Aagam Mandir during our anniversary.
Your Opinion Counts!
The JCSC Connect editors have brought to you the articles in this issue of the magazine based on the assumptions about what you would like to read. We have made an attempt to cater to members of all ages and interests. Now it is your turn! You need to tell us your candid opinion about the topics, the articles, the design, the pictures, the content organization, and anything else about the magazine. Your comments and suggestions will help us in making this magazine what you want it to be.

Please fill out the following form to provide us your valuable feedback: http://goo.gl/uCJy69

Thanks for your support.

In the Next Issue...
We plan to publish our next issue by the middle of July. We look forward to bringing you the following items and more.

• Another Jain story, activities, and an interview in the “Young Generation” section
• Meaning of another bhaktipad and an article about types of Bhakti in the “Devotion” section
• More compassionate acts by our members and an article about a worthy cause in the “Compassion” section
• Synopsis of Monday, Wednesday and JSG Group B classes in the “Education” section
• An inspirational story that endorses Jain values and more words of wisdom in the “Inspiration” section
• More personal experiences by our members about transformations in their lives in the “Transformation” section
• JCSC news and events in the “Information” section

Call for Articles
Together, we can all make JCSC Connect a wonderful experience for ourselves! Now that you have seen the diverse content of this magazine, is the writer, thinker in you motivated?

• Do you know an activity that our kids will love to do? Do you know a story that they will enjoy learning from?
• Do you know a bhakti song that wells up your eyes? Do you want to share it with others?
• Have you come across a compassionate selfless act someone has done?
• Would you like to explain a Jain “siddhant” that challenges and engages you?
• Do you want to tell others what inspires you to do your best?
• Do you want to share your challenges and experiences in practicing Jain principles?

If your answer is “YES” to any of the above questions, then don’t wait!

Contact us as JCSC.Connect@gmail.com and tell us what you want to write about. We will provide you with guidelines, deadlines and provide any assistance you may need. We want this to be YOUR magazine! If the idea of connecting with others, with your ‘self’, and with Bhagwan appeals to you then get involved, help others and let us enrich our lives.

Thank you!
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Saturday and Sunday: 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Public Holidays: 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.