

JSCNC Newsletter

A Publication of Jain Study Center of North Carolina
509 Carriage Woods, Raleigh, NC 27607 U.S.A.
<http://www.jscnc.org>

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2012 Executive Committee

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Editor's Corner

Jai Jinendra,

Mahavir Jayanti Celebration was a huge success! Thank you for your overwhelming support and kudos to everyone who worked very hard this year. The event this year was unlike anything we have done in past.

As a reminder, if you know someone who is new to the community or is not receiving this newsletter, please let me know so I can add them to our distribution. This is the primary vehicle for communicating with all JSNC members.

Regards,

Anand Shah

(Secretary, JSCNC)

JAINA Director	Hindu Center Liaison
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Special Projects	Special Projects
Finance Mr. Pratyush Mehta Chapel Hill, NC (919) 967-6270 Adopt-A-Highway Mr. Pritesh Shah Raleigh, NC (919) 786-1377	Annual Camp Mr. Kamlesh Shah Cary, NC (919) 270-5111 Religious Programs Mr. Pravin Shah Mr. Kirit Shah

1. Monthly Meeting

The community holds its monthly meetings at the Hindu Temple in Morrisville, NC.

We invite everyone to attend the monthly meetings.

Please inform Mr. Pratyush Mehta (Mr. Ajay Shah is out of town and won't be attending) for planning purposes if you are planning to attend.

We will be celebrating Mother's Day in this meeting. Please follow the guidelines for contacting our Food Coordinator.

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

May 20

Discourse Topic

TBD

Speaker

Mr. Ramnik Zota

2. Announcements

Mahavir Jayanti 2012 Celebration

This year's Mahavir Jayanti celebration was a spectacular success and a live demonstration of our community's unity. We hosted approximately 375 people and several changes for this year:

New Venue (HSNC Cultural Hall)

New program format (afternoon)

Lifetime Achievement Award

We started off with Ashtprakari Puja and Swapna Darshan conducted by Jain youth. The Puja was followed by Shanti Kalash by youth from YJA, Mangal Divo and Aarti.

We were also blessed that Sadhvi Shubhamji Maharaj of Veerayatan was among us and attended the program. On behalf of the executive committee, I wanted to thank Mr. Madhuker Mehta, Mr. Arvind Shah and Mr. Pravin Shah for hosting Sadhviji and arranging for her attendance. Thanks also to Mr. Ajay Shah for coordinating with Interfaith Alliance. Several members visited and greatly enjoyed the program.

Starting this year, JSCNC instituted a new lifetime achievement award that will be given out to jains with extraordinary accomplishments. The first recipient of this award is Mr. Pravin K. Shah for his longstanding commitments to Jain Education at all levels.

Overall, Mahavir Jayanti 2012 was big success thanks to the meticulous planning of the program coordinators, hours of effort by choreographers and most importantly our energetic youth who delivered a superb performance. The Committee would sincerely like to thank **everyone** who helped directly or indirectly make Mahavir Jayanti 2012 a grand success! We are proud of the overwhelming support from the entire community. At the end of the newsletter, you will find a list of volunteers and sponsors for major categories.

*We are in the process of compiling DVDs of the entire program. The DVD will cover both the Puja & Cultural Program. **Stay tuned for more details.** Also, if you would like to share your collection of pictures taken during Mahavir Jayanti, please send Anand Shah an email.*

Weekly Mahavir Puja

We are requesting additional volunteers to perform Mahavir Puja every Saturday in the Hindu Temple. The Puja is very simple and takes less than one hour. This is a great way to teach children, especially young children to prepare them with this ritual. This is a great opportunity for children to learn so they are confident to perform a puja when we visit pilgrimages in India. If we can find at least 6 families, each family will get their turn ONCE every six weeks. Children will learn how to do the kesar pooja and all aspects of Asht prakari Pooja. Mrs. Rekha Banker who coordinates weekly puja will be happy to demonstrate in person and has several books with illustrations to help. If you are interested, please drop her a note.

JAINA Teachers' National Conference - May 25, 2012 - May 28, 2012

The primary objective of this conference is to have group discussions on Pathshala Education Material, Teaching Methodology, and tracking system. Participants will be divided into groups based on their interest and expertise. There are working sessions with very little or no lectures. This conference is designed for Jain Pathshala in North America and other Pathshalas which follow a similar format.

JSCNC has arranged for both of our pathshala teachers Mrs. Rita Lodaya & Mrs. Sejal Shah to participate and represent Jain Study Center of NC. By attending these sessions, our pathshala teachers will further expand their domain and will learn valuable techniques by collaborating with other teachers.

Adopt A Highway - Spring Cleanup

Our center participates in Adopt-A-Highway cleanup twice a year. The statewide Adopt-A-Highway program was established in 1988 and is a joint effort between community volunteers and NC Department of Transportation to keep our roads clean. JSCNC adopted a stretch of Highway 54 in Cary between Morrisville Parkway and Airport Boulevard. This stretch was named in honor of Mr. Lalit Banker. This year's spring cleanup was scheduled on Apr 29 with the help of a group of volunteers.

Consider volunteering your time during the next cleanup. It's a great community service not to mention good exercise in the morning. Thanks to Pritesh Shah for organizing this year's spring cleanup.

Mother's Day Celebration

Mother's day celebration is combined with the monthly meeting (May 20). The lunch is sponsored by Mr. Ramnik and Mrs. Lata Zota. Please contact Mr. Pratyush Mehta since Mr. Ajay Shah is out of town. Please remind your children to prepare something to recite for their mom! We will allocate time for all children to come forward and say a few words (a letter, drawing, poem, song etc.).

3. Upcoming Activities

This JSCNC 2012 calendar is online. Please visit <http://www.jscnc.org> and click Events. The calendar has the most up-to-date listing of all confirmed activities for the year. All the tithis (Lunar Days) are also posted on the online calendar.

Annual Picnic - June 17th (Lake Crabtree county park - details to come)

Swadhyay - twice a week - Contact Mr. Harshad Shah

Mahavir Puja - once a week - Contact Mrs. Rekha Banker

4. Pathshala Corner

JSCNC Pathshala serves our young kids to instill spiritual development, self-awareness and promote Jain identity in individuals, based on the principles of Jainism. The teachers pay special attention to the needs of young and older groups and have structured curriculum as such.

The Paathshala classes take place every first Sunday of the month from 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. in the Hindu Temple Cultural Hall AND on 3rd Sundays during the monthly meeting. If you plan to attend and/or need more information, please call Mrs. Rita Lodaya or Mrs. Sejal Shah. Paathshala e-mail address is JSCNCpathshala@yahoo.com.

Sign-in/Sign-out Process

I wanted to remind everyone that children's safety is our utmost concern. Our pathshala attendance continues to grow. All pathshala classes are held on safe premises of Hindu Center, however there is considerable traffic in the parking lot. To help pathshala teachers maintain order and keep everyone safe, we are asking all the parents **to sign in and sign out** their kids - irrespective of the age of their child - during the 1st Sunday pathshala. We request very basic information (Who, When and emergency contact). We will use this process for all future youth activities. The goal of this process is to balance convenience and children's safety.

Please continue to follow this process. It is important to cooperate with the teachers for the safety of your children.

6. Supporting our center

You can support our Center by:

- Becoming a member if you are not already: Please print a form from our website: <http://jscnc.org/docs/MembershipForm.doc>, complete it and mail it by following instructions
- By making a generous donation for Education Fund or Jiv Daya or Mahavir Jayanti or general donation. Follow this link to <http://jscnc.org/HowToMakeADonation.php> to learn how to make a donation.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Mahavir Jayanti 2012 - Sponsors & Volunteers List

Sponsors List

Amount	Name	Address
\$2,000.00	Nipun & Sue Shah	Fayetteville, NC
\$1,500.00	Shantibhai & Induben Mehta	Fayetteville, NC
\$1,500.00	Ramnikbhai & Lataben Zota in memory of "Kiran Zota-Stull"	Morrisville, NC
\$500.00	Harshadbhai Varia	Raleigh, NC
\$600.00	Harshadbhai & Jyotsna Shah	Raleigh, NC
\$250.00	Vasant & Prabha Sejpal	Burlington, NC
\$350.00	Anonymous	

Volunteers List

Major Category	Name
Puja & Swapna Darshan	Puja Doshi, Kirit Shah, Pritesh Shah, Pravin Shah
Backdrop	Sampada Agarwal
Audiovisual Support	Bhairav Shah, Khushal Mehta, Pankesh Mehta, Ashish Modi
HSNC Liasion	Harshad Shah

Brochure Preparation	Mukesh Chajjer
Certificate preparation & printing	Pritesh Shah
Children Awards	Pritesh Shah & Pratyush Mehta
Video Recording	Paresh Gondalia, Anurag Verma, Shailesh Shah, Rohit Shah, Paresh Mehta
Food Coordinator	Ajay Shah & his team of volunteers
Hall Monitors Coordination	Sonali Muthiyan
Pathshala Teachers' appreciation	Neha Mehta & Nisha Mehta
Mahavir Jayanti Exhibition	Sunil Prakash Chand, Pravin Shah, Dr. Usha Doshi
Food Serving, Table Setup, Stage Setup, Props, Hall and Kitchen Cleanup	All volunteers

Anand Shah
(Secretary, JSCNC)