



Lord Mahaveer

JVB International Reflections..



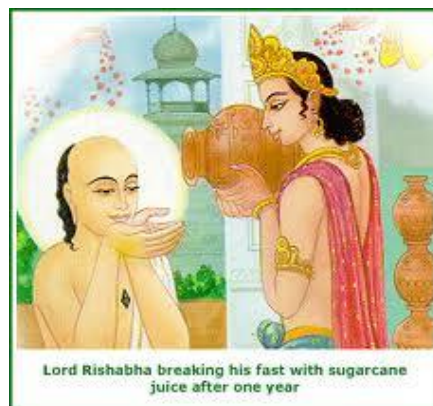
Acharya Mahashraman

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Akshaya Tritiya



Lord Rishabhadeva breaking his fast with sugarcane juice after one year

JVB Orlando

Samani Bhavit Pragya

Samani Sangha Pragya

www.jainvishwabharati.org

JVB New Jersey

Samani Sanmati Pragya

Samani Jayant Pragya

www.jvbnj.org

JVB Houston

Samani Parimal Pragya

Samani Vikas Pragya

www.jvbhouston.org

Highlights of this issue:

Akshaya Tritiya

News from JVB
Orlando Center



News from JVB New
Jersey Center



News from JVB
Houston Center



Jainism is one of the oldest religions India. Rshabhadeva alias Adinath is the first Tirthankara of the Jains. Tirthankara Rshabhdeva was king of Ayodhya. He being enlightened leaved all earthly pleasures and chosen to ascetic life become a Jain monk. Jain monks do not possess anything with them not even food. They do not even cook food for themselves. While hungry or thirsty, they go to people and ask for food or drinking water. Tirthankara Rshabhdeva also went to people and asked food. However, the people of that time did not know anything about the acts of monks, as he was the first monk in this era.

People of Ayodhya offered gold, jewelry, gemstones, elephants, horses, expensive garments and even their daughters to honor their beloved king. Rshabhdeva was not in quest of all these. He wanted food only that nobody offered him. Nobody at that time could guess that their king was asking for food. As there was no choice, he had to fast for long time until his grandson Shreyansha kumara understood his need. Shreyansha kumara, finally, offered him sugar cane juice and Rshabhdeva broke his fast with that juice. The incident happened on the day of Akshaya Tritiya. This is considered by the Jains as one of the best offerings. It is believed that bestowing upon religious gifts on Akshaya Tritiya becomes inexhaustible. Jains, even today, observe long term fast to commemorate their first Tirthankara Rshabhdeva and broke their fast on Akshaya Tritiya with sugar cane juice.

News from JVB Orlando Center

17th Annual Preksha Meditation Camp



“Transform yourself” The Orlando JVB held the 17th Preksha Meditation Camp on January 18th – 20th at Orlando Metropolitan Resort. About 171 devotees from Orlando, Tampa, Miami, Ocala, Vero beach, Jupiter, Jacksonville, South Carolina, Chicago, Milwaukee, Atlanta, etc. participated in the camp. Four learned Samanijis, disciples of Acharaya Mahashraman from Orlando and Miami led this camp. The camp was divided into three groups; adults, youth, and children. Lectures, meditation and relaxation classes for

youth and adults were conducted by Samanijis and Dr. Devendra Mehta, Kamlesh Shah, Devang Chitalia, as well as other volunteers. The series of lectures started with enlightening lecture by Samaniji Bhavit Prayaji on the topics of “Guiding Principles of Life” with inspirational thoughts. All the lectures were presented as power point presentations by Samanijis. The audio-visual received very enthusiastic responses from the attendees. The youth and kids performed an amazing evening cultural program on Saturday evening. On Sunday, at the closing of the camp, everyone claimed the camp to be highly beneficial and fulfilling to them.



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Tampa Florida



April 7th – Jain Sangha of Tampa invited the Samanijis from JVB Orlando to speak about “Mantra healing”. Samaniji Bhavit Pragyaji presented her views on the importance of Mantra, and explained that Mantra helps the physical, mental and emotional health. Samaniji Sangh Pragyaji instructed Gyanshala kids on human values. After lecture, the audience was told how to perform and recite the mantras. The Jain Society of Tampa showed a large interest in the lectures. They invited the Samanijis for future programs.

Mahavir Jayanti – In various places

Columbia SC - Samaniji Bhavit Pragyaji and Samaniji Sangh Pragyaji visited Columbia, SC from April 20th through April 25th on the occasion of Mahavir Jayanti. Samanijis delivered lectures on the teachings of Lord Mahavira. The topics were Ahimsa (non-violence) and Maitri-bhavna (Friendliness). The lecture on Ahimsa focused mainly on Bhaav-himsa (mental violence). Columbia’s entire Jain Sangh had gathered for the celebration. All attendees benefited from Samaniji’s lectures and plan to attend the annual camp.

Greenville SC – The Samanijis were invited on the auspicious occasion of Mahavir Jayanti. The Samanijis stayed there from the 26th -29th of April. The Jain Society of Greenville celebrated the program on the 27th April. On this grand ceremony, Samaniji Bhavit Pragyaji talked about “Principals of Lord Mahavira”. Samaniji Sangh Pragyaji focused on the “Journey to Soul”. More than 200 people gathered for the program.

JVBNA NEW: JAN-APIL, 2013

New Year Celebration with Samani Sanmati Prajna and Samani Jayant Prajna:



JVBNA held a New Year Celebration at American Legion Hall (ALH) on Jan 1. On this occasion we had a mesmerizing Mantra Jaap session and very inspiring Pravacha by Samani Sanmati Prajna and Samani Jayant Prajna. JVB Gyanshala, youth members, and Bhajan Group presented the melodious songs welcoming New Year. Master of ceremony was very successfully done by Suba Parmar.

Intensive Agam Studies:

JVBNA organized first time intensive Agam Study in the direction of Samanijis. It was very enthusiastically attended by 34 people. The Agam named AYARO (Acharang Sutra) was thought by Samanijis in 8 sessions of 2.30 hours of each. This attempt

AGM and Oath Ceremony of New Executive Committee:

JVBNA organized an annual program on Jan 27 at ALH. The president Mr. Ramesh Parmar presented the annual financial and program reports of JVBNA. Samaniji announced the names of new EC for 2013 and the Chairman, Mr. Surendra Kankariya gave the oath to New EC members. Madhumiita Sacheti performed the MC part and also she presented a very interested quiz for the members. The program was concluded with Samanijis pravachan and Mangal Path.

NJ State Assembly Invocation Prayer:

JVBNA became the first Jain spiritual leaders to lead the opening Assembly. In just few words, Samaniji projected the tradition as the tradition required in the future for the today. This session was organized by Mr. Ramesh Parmar.

On January 28th 2013, Samani Sanmati Pragya and Samani Jayant Pragya became the first Jain spiritual leaders to lead the opening Assembly. In just few words, Samaniji projected the tradition as the tradition required in the future for the today. This session was organized by Mr. Ramesh Parmar (Director of JVBNA).



Holi Milon Program:

JVBNA organized 'Holi



Milan' Program on April 6 at Temple Emanu-EL, NJ, for fostering the values of Indian festival to its members. This Holi Milan program was enjoyed by 300 people. The program included Samaniji Pravachan & Poetries; Dance, Skits & News Channel by Children from JVB Gyanshala; Folk Dance by JVB's



women volunteers; one group sang a creative fusion of Holi songs, and student from Satrangi dance school presented a wonderful musical item as a grand finale. Mr. Rohit Jain (President) introduced the sponsor members. Alok Jain (VP) created seamless transitions between these wonderful performances. By the looks of all the joyful faces, I would claim the 2013 JVB Holi Milan a success! Thanks all the choreographers and volunteers for this wonderful program.

Samanijis visited other Jain Organization: Jain center of

America, NY: Samanijis visited JCA

for addressing the members of Sthanakvasi group on its annual remembrance of the Guru. **Jain Center of Memphis:** On the occasion of Mahavira Birth Celebration both Samanijis gave the pravachan on the philosophy of Karma. And the next day a special session was organized to discuss the science of Karma which plays an important role in our life. **Cincinnati:** During 2days trip, Samanijis delivered various Pravachans, Bhajans and chanting during their stay on the Birth Celebration of Bhagavan Mahaveer at Cincinnati.



JVB Monthly Navakar Mantra Jaap and Pravachan: Jan 12, Pratap and Kusum Jain, Feb was missed because of Snow, March 22, Ashok & Shilpa Bhansali, April 23, Mool & Shanti Singhi.

Samanijis Visited families: **New Jersey**-Ashok Bhansali, Rajendra Kankariya, Sunil Mehta, Ramesh Parmar, and Navin Vira. **Memphis**-Vinay & Chanchala Mehta. **Cincinnati**-Veersingh & Chanchal Jain, Ravi & Manju Bafna and Surendra Singh & Sushila Singhvi, Dinesh & Poonam Jain.

News from JVB Houston Center

JVB Houston 13th Annual Family Camp

JVB Houston conducted a three day family camp under the guidance of Samani Parimal Pragya ji & Samani Vikas Pragya ji. The camp was entitled - Understanding Joy & Sorrow, based on a recently translated book by Acharya Mahapragya ji; the camp was attended by about 70 persons from all over Texas.



Samaniji's discussion items for the evening discourse included: Why is understanding necessary? How to improve understanding? Understanding till when?. The next day of the workshop began with laughing yoga exercises conducted by Mr. Jitendra Tanna. Thereafter, Samaniji Parimal Pragya ji led a discourse/discussion entitled – Are you the parent of Joy & Sorrow? & Samani Vikas Pragya Ji presented her thoughts on – How to dress up Sorrow? In continuation, Dr. Manish Chauhan, a cardiologist from Austin,

Texas enlightened everyone on the intricacies of heart disease and its high prevalence among people of South Asian descent. During the day attendees relaxed and performed various Preksha meditation sessions led by Samani Parimal Pragya ji.

The evening highlights revolved around the cultural eve program, wherein attendee teams produced and presented skits on pre-assigned topics in a short turnaround time of only a couple of hours. Creativity was at its peak and individual expressive & presentation qualities reached high points.

The third & final day of the workshop began with regular yoga sessions by the lake, recitation of Bhaktambar Strotra, and was followed by a special session on “4 stories – 1000 interpretations”. The attendees thought this session was the icing on the cake, and was an apt conclusion to the workshop. Feedback from the attendees was tremendous and encouraging. The workshop also featured parallel programs for kids.



Mahavir Jayanti

Jain Society of Houston celebrated Mahavir Jayanti program on April 28th in the presence of Samani Parimal Pragya Ji & Samani Vikas Pragya Ji. JSH Pathshala kids of different age groups performed a cultural program the beautifully portrayed the Jain way of live in this foreign land. Samani Parimal Pragya ji in her discourse posed a question to the audience – It is true that we are celebrating Mahavir Jayanti; but it's our misconception that we are following Lord Mahavir's teachings correctly. How can we try to change this misconception & become a true follower of Lord Mahavir's teachings?

Monthly Meditation Camp

JVB Houston is continuing on its objective of providing greater good to the community at large with its regular weekly, monthly & annual programs. JVB conducts a monthly Preksha workshop on every 2nd Saturday, and last month's workshop on April 13th featured a discourse on – Change your Personality by Samani Parimal Pragya Ji. Samani Vikas Pragya ji led the live Preksha meditation session and Hasumukh Patel led the yoga session on that day.