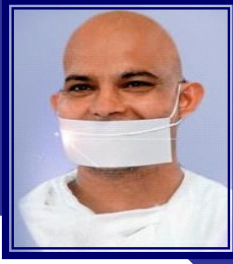


Lord Mahaveer

JVB International Reflections...



Acharya Mahashraman

Volume 8 Issue 3



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JVB Orlando

Samani Bhavit Pragya
Samani Kanchan Pragya
www.jainvishwabharati.org

JVB Houston

Samani Vikas Pragya
Samani Maryada Pragya
www.jvbhouston.org

JVB New Jersey

Samani Sanmati Pragya
Samani Jayant Pragya
www.jvbnj.org

FIU Miami

Samani Satya Pragya
Samani Rohini Pragya



Thoughts of Acharyashri Mahashraman

Why lose today, as, who has seen tomorrow?
The moments we can smile, why spend them in sorrow?

Life begins with birth and ends with death. Both the body and the soul form life. Where there is only body, there is no life. Conversely, where there is only a form of consciousness, life cannot exist. The combination of body and soul is what we know as life. Every embodied being in this world, whether human, animal, bird, or plant, represents life. But simply living is a wasted life experience for the sentient being. What humans should aspire for is to lead an "artistic" life.

An "artistic" life is inspired by religion and dexterity. Humans strive for expertise in multiple spheres and may attain perfection in some. In ancient texts, seventy-two types of teachable arts and crafts for men, and sixty-four for women, have been mentioned. A person may learn and even master all of these arts, but this does not imply he has learned the art of living. In fact, he has probably not learned anything at all!

Highlights of this issue:

Thoughts of Acharyashri



News - JVB Orlando



News - JVB Houston



News - JVB New Jersey



News - FIU Miami

In his poem "Vyavahar Bodh," H.H. Gurudev Tulsi writes:

"Sabhi kalaen hain vikalaen, pandit sabhi apandit hain.
Nahin janate kaise jina, keval mahima mandit hai."

"All arts are maimed, all scholars are ignorant.

If they don't know how a life should be spent, they are only overwhelmed with grandeur."

News from JVB Orlando

Detroit Sangh Organizes JAINA Kshamavani Day Program by JVB Orlando Samaniis, Sep 18



The Jain Society of Greater Detroit, MI (www.jsqd.org) organized a spiritual program for over 150 attendees (including Americans), which was conducted by Samani Bhavit Pragyaaji and Samani Kanchan Pragyaaji of JVB Orlando on Sunday, September 18, 2016. Samaniis delivered an insightful lecture on the topic of "The Power of Forgiveness." The morning's events were further enriched by a demonstration of Preksha Meditation and several minutes of powerful chanting of *beej mantras* of Jainism,



as well as melodious singing of stavans led by Samaniis. Attendees benefitted from Samaniis' multi-media presentation, with numerous examples of practical situations and anecdotes that Shravaks can use in their daily lives to practice forgiveness.

Ahimsa Day Celebration at Cincinnati, Oct 1-3



Samani Bhavit Pragyaaji conducted two days of lecture series on Navkar mantra and its benefits in daily life at Jain Center of Cincinnati and Dayton Ohio. Samani Kanchan Pragyaaji explained the meaning of Shvaas Preksha and taught us few yoga practices. The program was attended by enthusiastic members who appreciated their presentations.

Samaniis' trip to Atlanta, GA, Nov 16-21 at Nahata Residence

Samaniis explained the meaning of Namokar Mantra, 8 Karmas and chanted Disha Shudhi Mantras. On Saturday, Samaniis performed prayers and explained Jain religion to the children. On Sunday, Samaniis provided lecture at JSKA Atlanta on Power of Forgiveness. Samani Kanchan Pragyaaji conducted Gyanshala for the kids. A good number of Shravaks attended and appreciated the enlightening lecture.

Tampa, FL



Samaniis visited Tampa Sangh on 5th Nov and 18th Dec. Samani Bhavit Pragyaaji delivered her speech on 'Importance of Human Life' and 'Power of knowledge'. She stressed on power of gyan yog and why it is important for everyone. To make the session interesting and interactive, it was presented in the style of question and answers. Samani Kanchan Pragyaaji conducted Gyanshala for kids. The topic was 'How to be best in life'. Tampa sangh felt that the program was very enlightening and inspirational and was enjoyed by all.

Jacksonville, FL

To honor Siddhitap Tapasvi Neha Kothari, Samaniis went to Jacksonville on 14th Oct. Samani Bhavit Pragyaaji explained the importance of penance/tapasya to the sangh. In her discourse she mentioned why, what and when to do tap. Samani Bhavit Pragyaaji appreciated Neha's will power as she does tapasya every year. By doing tapasya she is purifying her soul and is getting closer to Moksha. On Dec 2-4 Samaniis visited Jacksonville. A program was organized in Hindu Temple and Anurag Jain's house. Samani Bhavit Pragyaaji lectured on 'Importance of Satsang' and Samani Kanchan Pragyaaji taught the kids how to develop memory power.



Raleigh, NC

The Samaniis visited Raleigh on November 24th – 29th where the a program was held at the Temple. Samani Bhavit Pragyaaji gave a lecture on "Life Management" and Samani Kanchan Pragyaaji taught kids yoga and meditation.

News from JVB Houston

Welcome and Concert by Samaniis



On 11th sep JVB Houston was blessed to have a special concert program by four Samaniis. In start, Samani Vikas Pragya & Maryada Pragya welcomed Samani Kusum Pragya & Parnav Pragya, who came all the way from India. Then followed Samaniis Concert and Samani Kusum Pragayaji's motivational lecture to step in spiritual field. Gaurav Jhaveri was emcee of the program. The concert mesmerized everyone's mind.

Raleigh Visit

Samaniis visited Raleigh, NC from sep 29-Oct 4. A retreat camp was organized on 'Understating Joy and Sorrow' from 1-3 Oct, which was attended by 65+ adults and 25+ kids. Samani Vikas Pragayaji held interactive sessions with practice of Preksha Meditation and in parallel Samani Maryada Pragayaji had fun and learn sessions for 10+ kids and youths. Everyone was very enlightened and thankful to Samaniis.



17th Annual Day Celebration

JVB patrons were fortunate to celebrate 17th Anniversary in Houston by actively participating in the 2 day festivities from 8-9 Oct. The event started with Mega blood donation drive followed with cultural program under the auspicious presence of Samaniis. JVB president Seema Jain welcomed the community and board director Alok Jain presented the flagship events with spirited speech. Samani Vikas pragyaji's powerful discourse on "Life Investment" enlightened the audience. The talented JVB Gyanshala kids stormed the stage with Bhakti dance & interesting skits. Nikhil Jain was the emcee.



Meditation Workshop at Rothko Chapel



Over 45 attendees were present for the first time to experience the PM workshop conducted by Samaniis at Rothko chapel on October 5th. The workshop included brief Introduction, guided mediation and Q&A session by Samaniis.

Bhagwan Mahavir Nirvaan Diwas (Deepawali) Celebration

Deepawali Day was celebrated with much fervor under auspicious guidance of Samaniis. The special attractions of the program were Bhagwan Mahavir Jap, Interesting Jainism History quiz & Jain Deepawali Pooja led by JVB Director, Pramod Bengani. Over 35 families were part of this special celebration. JVB members & volunteers organized a sumptuous feast for everyone to enjoy together.



Interfaith Program



On 17th Nov, Samaniis represented Jainism at Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving at Rothko Chapel on 'Building Relationship'. S. Vikas pragyaji presented the Sacred texts in her melodious voice and S. Maryada pragyaji remarked on the theme illustrated in the text.

Samaniis Visit to Austin 16-18th Sep And Dallas 24-27 Oct

Samaniis were invited by Jain Community of Austin and Dallas. Interactive lecture sessions were delivered by Samani Vikas Pragayaji & kids enjoyed learning with Samani Maryada Pragayaji.



Re-Initiated Monthly Preksha Meditation Workshop

45 attendees (including kids) experienced the bliss of our monthly Preksha Meditation Workshop held by Respected Samaniis. S. Maryada Pragayaji explained the "Theory of Preksha Meditation." It was followed by the practice session held by S. Vikas Pragayaji.

Volunteering day at JVB center 20+ dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers (including young Gyanshala Kids & Seniors) joined hands for the deep cleaning of the center. It was huge success and all the volunteers actively participated in all directions. ****JVB Booth at Janmashtami-Sep 10****



News from JVB New Jersey



Know Yoga, Know Yourself: A Workshop

Under the guidance of Samanijis, JVB NJ hosted a workshop on yoga and meditation with Yogi Omprakashji on Sep 10 at the JVB NJ CPPM. Attendees learned the wisdom of yoga and music as a therapy for anger, ego, and other negative emotions.

Kshamapana, Bhikshu Jaap, Bhakti Geet Gunjar with Maestro Sudhir Narain

JVB NJ celebrated the above program under the auspicious guidance of Samani Sanmati Pragyaji and Samani Jayant Pragyaji on Sep 18 at the JVB NJ CPPM. The program comprised of Bhikshu Jaap and a skit on Leshyas. Samanijis spoke about the contributions of Acharya Bhikshu and Kshamapana. Melodious Bhakti Geet by Maestro Sudhir Narain followed.



Launch of Gyanshala North

Under the auspicious guidance and efforts of Samani Sanmati Pragyaji & Samani Jayant Pragyaji, a branch of JVB Gyanshala was launched in North NJ on Oct 2. This new branch is being run in parallel to JVB NJ's existing Gyanshala and mirrors its curriculum that includes Jain Philosophy, Prayers, Science of Living, and Hindi.

Mahaveer Nirvan Jaap & New Year Mangal Path

Under the auspicious guidance of Samanijis, JVB NJ organized Mahaveer Nirvan Jaap on Oct 30, and New Year Mangal Path on Oct 31. Samanijis led attendees through Bhagwan Mahaveer Jaap, Gautam Swami Jaap, Bhaktamar, Mangal Bhavana, Bhajans, and Mangal Path.



Chakra Cleansing & Healing Workshop



On Nov 5, under Samanijis' guidance, JVB NJ hosted a Chakra Cleansing & Healing workshop with Swami Mahesh that focused on chakras and their healing properties. The attendees were led through yogic exercises and pranayam to energize and open the chakras, yognidra and mantra meditation to channelize chakra energy and connect with higher consciousness.

Diwali Milan

JVB NJ celebrated Diwali Milan on Nov 12 under the guidance of Samanijis at the JVB NJ CPPM. The program comprised melodious magalacharan by the JVB NJ choir, Diwali through costumes by Gyanshala children, a skit with a lesson by Youth Forum teens, and a very interesting interactive Bodhi lottery quiz game for the audience. Samanijis spoke on the qualities of a diya and related that to what we should aspire for in our lives. The program was attended by almost 200 members of the JVB NJ family.



7-Day Weekend Vipakshrut Agam Workshop



Under the auspicious guidance of Samani Sanmati Pragyaji & Samani Jayant Pragyaji, Vipakshrut Agam workshop was held at JVB NJ from Nov 19 - Dec 18. This was JVB NJ's 4th Annual Agam Workshop. Vipakshrut Agam is a treatise on the connections that exist among actions, karma, joy, and sorrow, and elucidates these connections through simple stories. Samanijis led the attendees through engaging and interactive sessions conveying the message.

Gyanshala & Youth Forum Hunger Van Community Project

On Dec 10, under the guidance of Samanijis, JVB NJ Gyanshala & Youth Forum children embarked on their annual holiday community project to aid the underprivileged that involved preparing and serving vegan meals to the homeless and the needy in collaboration with Hunger Van. With help from teachers & parents, the children prepared and distributed 125+ meals.



Jainism 101 Online Classroom 1-year course completion



Dec 31 marked the successful completion of Jainism 101 - the first course offered by JVB NJ Online Classroom that was launched on Jan 1, 2016, under the auspicious guidance of Samanijis. The course covered 4 main segments in 4 quarters - Jeev 101, Ajeev 101, Nav Tattva 101, and Shad Dravya 101 - in a weekly self-study mode using audio-video technology.

News from Jain Studies Program in Miami

FIU, Teaching and Jain Community Program, Miami

With the blessings of Gurudev Shree Mahashraman ji, Prof. Samani Satya Pragya and Prof. Samani Rohini Pragya took up teaching program at Florida International University (FIU) USA, on 23rd Sep, for the Fall-Spring Semester 2016-2017.

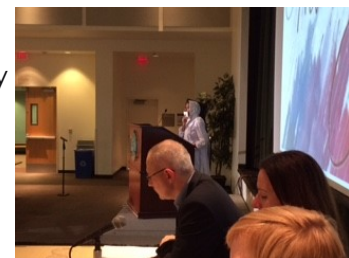


1. 30 Sep - Samanis participated at the establishment of Bhagwan Aadinath Professorship program at UNT, A historical foot print by JERF members at Dallas
2. 2 Oct - Ahimsa Day Celebration lecture on "Non-Violence as Applied Ethics in Jainism" at Jain Temple, Miami
3. 9 Oct - Guest Lecture of Master Lee on Taoism/Daoism at Tao Temple Miami
4. 12 Oct - PM: Founders and History, Preksha Club, FIU

5. 17 Oct - Preksha Meditation: Humming Sound, College of Law, FIU
6. 24 Oct - Mahavir Nirvana lecture series, FIU with Prof Gary Francione on "Jainism, Animal Rights and Veganism"
7. 26 Oct - Preksha Meditation and Aasana, Preksha Club, FIU
8. Attended TAK Religious study with Prof. Kenton Harris in Coffee Hour, FIU
9. 28 Oct - Special Lecture on "Rest Bullet: How Veterans Come Home" by Kathryn Mc Clymond, FIU Miami



10. 31 Oct - Preksha Meditation and Pranayam, College of Law, FIU
11. 31 Oct - Bhagwan Mahavira Nirwan "Apramada: The Essence of Mahavir's Teaching" lecture at Jain Temple, Miami
12. 2 Nov - Participated in conference on 'Philosophy and Women', Philosophy Club, FIU Miami
13. 5 Nov - 'Shantsudharas and Transitory Bhavana - A Spiritual Jain Practice', Jain Group, Miami
14. 7 Nov - Preksha and Aasana, Preksha Club, FIU, Miami
15. 13 Nov - "Aparigraha: A Dilemma for Jain Lay Followers" Jain Temple, Miami
16. 14 Nov - Preksha and Yoga, Law College, FIU, Miami
17. 16 Nov - Panelists, Santhara: A Challenge to Indian secularism film screening by Shekar Hattgandi by Jain Studies Professorship, Religious Dept., FIU Miami
18. 21 Nov - Preksha and Relaxation, Preksha Club
19. 28 Nov - Preksha and Practice, Law College, FIU
20. 5 Dec - Preksha Club, Preksha Meditation and Postures, FIU, Miami
21. 10 Dec - Jainism and Joy, Jain group, Miami
22. 11 Dec - Jainism and Anekantvada, Jain Temple, Miami



Conference and Guest lecture at Los Angeles and Bahamas



1. 18-20 Nov - Conference on 'Giving and Forgiving', participated and presented paper on 'Preksha and Cultivation of Amity, Compassion and Humility Ahimsa Center, Cal Poly, Pomona, Los Angeles
2. 25-27 Nov - Guest Lecture on 'Applied Non Violence' and Workshop on 'Training in Non Violence', Shivananda Ashram, Bahamas, Nassau

Online Lecture at UNT, Texas, Claremont and Loyola Marymount

Prof. Pankaj Jain, from University of North Texas organized Samanijis' guest lecture on the 'Key Questions of Jainism', Prof. Sushma Jain and Prof. Nirinjan Kaur organized lectures at Los Angeles on 'Jain Way of Life in Context of Saman Order' and 'Ahimsa, Aparigraha and Anekantvada'. Shared bibliography on Consciousness and Mind with prof. Brianne Donaldson of Rice university, Houston

Trips to Houston and Atlanta

1. Dec 19 - Guest lecture on Santhara, JVB, Houston
2. Dec 19 - Workshop on Conflict Resolution and Anekantvada, JVB, Houston
3. Dec 20-30 - Family counseling, Gyanshala and PM sessions at Atlanta

