



Lord Mahavir

JVB International Reflections..



Acharya Mahashraman

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JVB New Jersey

Samani Bhavit Pragya
Samani Sangha Pragya
www.jvbnewjersey.org

JVB Houston

Samani Sanmati Pragya
Samani Jayant Pragya
www.jvbhouston.org

JVB Orlando

Samani Parimal Pragya
Samani Vikas Pragya
www.jainvishwabharati.org

Miami, FIU

Samani Chaitanya Pragya
Samani Unnata Pragya

ARHAM



Forgiveness is very important quality that leads to a good, tension-free life. It is an antidote to anger. Anger is like fire and forgiveness is like the cool sandalwood or the water that puts it out. It is said that forty pounds of boiling oil can be cooled with just two pinches of sandalwood powder. Likewise, anger can be tamed by forgiveness. Discussing the consequences of anger, Acharya Somaprabha Suri says, "Anger increases anguish, eliminates humility, breaks friendships, generates anxiety, and provokes acrimonious speech. It destroys good will, clouds wisdom, and wipes out fortunes. That is why it is shunned by the wise."

Highlights of this issue:

Forgiveness



News from JVB
New Jersey Center



News from JVB
Houston Center



News from JVB
Orlando Center



Florida
International University

Anger seems to come easily and naturally to all, but forgiveness is very difficult to adopt. True forgiveness requires a special effort. Therefore, it is said, "forgiveness is an ornament of brave." Cowards simply cannot forgive.

Spirituality (Dharma) is manifested in four different ways, one of them being forgiveness. Forgiveness nourishes and sweetens relations. It perpetually strengthens the bonds of a family.

A king once asked his old minister, "You have fifty members in your family. You live and eat together every day. How do you remain happy and maintain peace when you most likely have different temperaments and different preferences?" The minister replied, "Your Majesty! The secret of our happiness is tolerance through forgiveness. We have learned to endure one another."

Forgiveness warms the heart and cools the sting. It renders happiness not only to the present but also to the next life as well.

News from JVB New Jersey Center

Akshay Tritiya: "Path of Ahimsa"

Akshay Tritiya was celebrated with numerous cultural programs on May 10, 2014 by JVBNA at Six Mile Run Church. It was celebrated with a theme "Path of Ahimsa". The master of ceremony was Supriya Bothra. Numerous cultural programs were presented in this event. A skit, Yatra Yoglik Yug Ki and performances were enjoyed by an audience of more than 200 people. On this very day, a tribute was paid to late Siddharaj ji Bhandari. Samanji Bhavit Pragyaaji delivered her speech on the "Path of Ahimsa". Samaniji spoke about creating healthy habits and eliminating unhealthy habits in our daily lives.

Launch of Gyanshala Magazine

The first issue of Gyanshala magazine was officially launched on May 10th during the celebration of Akshay Tritiya. This is a collaborative effort of the news committee team and Gyanshala teachers and students, under the guidance of Samani Bhavit Pragyaaji, and Samani Sangh Pragyaaji. The purpose of the magazine is to showcase what our children have learned from Gyanshala. It's a small step in passing on of the Jainism knowledge to our next generation. This task was led by Reena Bothra and Supriya Bothra.

Annual Spiritual Camp - "Let us Learn to Live"

JVBNA Annual Spiritual Camp "Let us Learn to Live" was conducted from June 13th to 15th at Arsh Vidya, PA. Approximately 121 participants attended the camp. Samanijis - Bhavit Pragyaaji, Sanmati Pragyaaji, Jayant Pragyaaji and Sangh Pragyaaji conducted interactive sessions, with interesting topics for adults and kids. The adults and kids were fascinated by all the sessions, including Bhaktamar sessions, yoga and meditation sessions, and various lectures, based on wisdoms from scriptures. It was a fun-filled, completely unplugged, yet charged up weekend for adults and kids alike.



Gyanshala Annual Day

On the completion of the Annual Spiritual Family Camp, JVBNA Gyanshala Annual Day for Year 2013--14 was celebrated on June 15th. Kids presented their projects showcasing their knowledge of Jainism. They received their report cards, certificates, and trophies. Parents and teachers shared their experiences and felt privileged for this enlightening and enriching opportunity for their kids. Children sold their annual projects to their parents and raised funds for Vimal Vidya Vihar, a JVB run institution for underprivileged children in Ladnun. The spiritual journey at Gyanshala goes beyond imparting knowledge. Our little galaxy of intellectuals did a full package of educational, spiritual, and cultural activities. List of achievements and accolades is endless this year.

Children's Prayer Session at Center

In summer vacation, children's sessions were conducted at the center. They were divided into 2 groups according to their age. The students were very enthusiastic and enjoyed learning all the new knowledge from Samanijis'. This is the positive steps that have been taken by Samanijis' that children will be able to continue practicing Jainism principles



Pravachan at Franklin and Ithaca Temple

Samanijis were invited for pravachan at Franklin Temple Pratishtha Anniversary Celebrations, July 12, 2014. Samani Bhavit Pragyaaji delivered her speech on the "Power of Soul", and the audience asked many questions, as well. The pravachan was enjoyed by the audience. Samanijis were invited to the Ithaca Temple Pratishtha anniversary. The speech was delivered on the "Importance of Human Life".

Paryushan and Samvatsari

Samanijis' program was held at VFW Hall at South Plainfield, NJ, on all 8 days of Paryushan from Aug 22-29. Samaniji 's pravachan emphasized on the importance of the different spiritual topics in our lives. The morning sessions were conducted at the JVBNA Center. The program was enjoyed by the audience.



Blood Drive

JVBNA conducted its first blood donation drive on Saturday, September 6, 2014. The drive was conducted in collaboration with American Red Cross at the JVBNA Center in Iselin. This initiative was part of an India wide mega blood drive conducted by ABTYP with the blessings of Acharyashri Mahashraman.

News from JVB Houston Center

JVB Houston's 3 in 1 Celebration

Under the auspicious guidance of Samani Sanmati Pragyaji and Samani Jayant Pragyaji, the month of May at JVB center marked the celebration of Akshay Tiritiya, Acharya Abhinandan & Mother's Day, all together with a special event called "**Path of Ahimsa**". A very unique advertisement contest was held where the community members, young as well as old, showcased their talent & creativity through various acts to practice Ahimsa in their daily lives. All the Mothers were honored with a special Prayer Book inaugurated and sponsored by Has-mukh Doshi. The same day, JVB dedicated its new playground to the community, which was inaugurated by the students of Gyanshala.



Gyanshala's first Annual Day



To reward all the Gyanshala kids for their learning & commitment, Annual Gyanshala Day was introduced this year. at the end of the year. All the kids ages 4-14 were duly recognized & rewarded for their full attendance, participating in various cultural activities and end of the year exams for Hindi as well as Jainism classes. Sarika Gandhi and the dedicated team of teachers volunteered dedicatedly during the entire year.

Color Coordinated Children Summer Camp

The highlight of the summer was JVB's Unique color coordinated Children Camp. 25 Kids ages 4-13 from different backgrounds were all part of this one of a kind weeklong event. Traditional as well as contemporary form of Arts & Crafts, interactive memory games, using sensorial skills with hands on activities, cooking sessions & fun water games were all part of everyday routine and very well coordinated by 15+ dedicated volunteers of JVB community. Seema Jain and her Volunteer team has put excellent efforts to make this memorable. Special thanks to Shashi Jain, Monica Wagholkar and Maya Mehta for giving unique session to Children.



Monthly Preksha Meditation workshop

Monthly Meditation workshop is held every last Saturday of the month, inside JVB 's Pyramid Hall is home to 30+ Houston area Indians as well as Non-Indians and is lead by Samanijis in a calm, relaxing and blissful environment.

5th Annual Paryushan Celebrations

Under Samaniji's guidance and motivation, once again, the entire JVB community became spellbound in an atmosphere of felicity and Tapasya during Paryushan Celebrations which started a month prior and continued till Samvatsari day. Evening Pratikraman for young and old, Agam Discourses in the morning and evening discourses on inner purification of soul and Karma marked the daily ritual for 8 days. In Conclusion, Tap Anumodhna program was magnificently celebrated to highlight & reward all the young and adult Tapasvees followed by a small drama " Saat din ka Saar" to signify the seven days of Paryushan. Tap was recorded as; 8 Days Upwas- Ila Patel, Meena Kapasi and Tushar Jain. 3 days Upwas-8 people, and several people recorded 2days & 1 day Upwas and Tapasya in other forms. Gyanshala Student Uday Jain did two time 2-days Upwas, many other students participated in one day Upwas.



iChoose

Informative & interactive networking sessions created for the young professionals by the renowned & experienced professionals have well caught the attention of Houston community and are going strong with each passing session. Mr Pradeep Anand and JVB Director Mr. Alok Jain were the influential speakers from May to Aug.

Other Events & Announcements

JVB member Nishant Jain has been offering Tax Preparation services to JVB members, free of cost, advising members to donate to JVB in lieu of paying him a fee. JVB collected about \$2,000 this year due to his selfless gesture.

Samaniji's Canada Trip: Thanks to Ila Patel for sponsoring & accompanying Samanijis for their trip to Jain Sangh of Vancouver on the request of Bhanwar Purohit, who along with Nattu Bhakta hosted Samanijis. Samanijis also visited Kavita Banthia's house.

Samaniji addressed following external community groups at JVB: FOI Group, Gujarati Sahitya Sarita & Kachhi Jain Samaj
Samaniji Pravachan held at home of following families: Sachin Jain, Nikhil Jain, Sampat Rampuria, Mahavir Jain, Ashok Jain, Tushar Jain & Satish Garg

For more Information about our upcoming & past events visit www.jvbhouston.org or call @ 281-596-9642

News from JVB Orlando Center

Akshay Tritya & Anniversary of JVB Center, Orlando: May 4, 2014

The 10th anniversary of the JVB Center in Orlando was celebrated with great enthusiasm under the guidance of Pragyaji, Shukla Pragyaji, and Unnat Pragyaji. People from Tampa, Miami, & Jacksonville were welcomed. A special program was presented along with the youth presented a marvelous lecture, Samani Parimal Pragyaji talked about Food Management, Family Management, and conducted by Samani Unnat Pragyaji.



Orlando as well as Akshay Tritya was celebrated by Samani Parimal Pragyaji, Vikas Jain communities from Tampa, West Palm Beach, and Jacksonville. The outgoing president, Mr. Devang Chitambar, presented the Gyanshala children's cultural program, "Akshay Uphaar". In her lecture, she discussed lessons given by Bhagwan Rishabh in so on. The entire program was wonderfully

YJA Convention: July 4 – 6, 2014

Namaskar Mahamantra Prarthna and Mangal Path was performed in the Opening session of the convention. 3 lectures were presented on "A Healthy Lifestyle – Asceticism" and "Who is responsible?" The lectures were received very well with a positive reaction.

Visit to Tampa

Samani Unnat Pragyaji presented a series of lectures every month on the topic "Change your Personality" at the Jain temple in Tampa.

Celebration of the Paryushan Mahaparva: August 22 – 29, 2014

Bhaktamar, Preksha Dhyaan, Agam Vaanchan, Pratikraman, morning and evening lectures were done daily during the 8 days of Paryushan. Topics of lectures given by Samani Unnat Pragyaji: Morning – "Uvasaggahar Stotra", Evening – "Suljhaaye Karmo ki Paheli ko".

Bhaktamar Competition:

6 children (Shri, Divya, Eesha, Riya, Kavya, & Rishi) participated. The children showed their wonderful knowledge abilities during the tough competition rounds. As a token of encouragement, president Ashok Shah presented a gift to all the children. Mehul Shah, "Gyanshala Coordinator", conveyed gratitude toward the Samani Unnat Pragyaji and recognized the efforts of the children.

Tap – Abhinandan: August 24, 2014

Maskhaman: Amitbhai Vora, Viralbhai Doshi. Siddhi Tap: Devendrabhai Mehta. The program was anchored wonderfully by vice-president, Mr. Vijay Lunawat.

Siddhi Tap & Maskhaman

Athai Tap



August 28, 2014

Athai: Sanjay bhai Vora, Pooja Jain, Neelam

Mehta, Eesha Doshi. Ekasan Maskhaman: Lataben Shah, Sheetal Doshi. 5 Upvas: Shantilal bhai Gandhi, Various Ekasan Athais, Telas, Belas, 1 Upvas. A second abhinandan program, anchored by secretary Mrs. Ushma Chitalia, was held at the center on Thursday, Aug. 28.

Various Spiritual Celebrations During Paryushan:

The Orlando JVB community as a whole performed many spiritual celebrations with the inspiration and guided efforts of Samani Unnat Pragyaji, such as Samayik ki Pachranghi, Maun ki Pachranghi, Pachchkhan ki Pachranghi, Swadhyaya ki Pachranghi, Combined 1.25 lakhs Jap celebration.

Celebrating Samvatsari Mahaparva

Asking for Forgiveness

