



परस्परौपद्रेष्टो जीवानाम्

# JAINA

## Federation of Jain Associations in North America

Founded 1981

A Non-Profit Tax Exempt Religious Organization IRS Code Section 501(c)(3) EI # 54-1280028  
JAINA Headquarters: 43-11 Ithaca Street, Elmhurst, NY 11373, USA. Tel: 718-606-2885

May 9, 2009

Dear Overseas Jain Society Leaders and Sadharmiks:

### Invitation to Jain Diaspora Conference & JAINA Convention in Los Angeles, July 2009

Jai Jinendra!

JAINA cordially invites your participation in the Jain Diaspora Conference (JDC) being organized this July 2 with the objective of bringing together Jain leaders from around the world, and thereby drive greater unity and cohesiveness in the global Jain community. This event was envisioned by Late Shri LM Singhvi, at the 2007 JAINA Convention in New Jersey.

The Jain Diaspora Conference (JDC) will be held on **Thursday, July 2, 2009, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Jain Center of Los Angeles, California, USA**, preceding the formal inauguration of the 15<sup>th</sup> Biennial JAINA Convention being held July 2 – 5 at the same location. Registration for both events is offered at a special consideration price of US\$100 to all attendees from Diaspora Jain communities who may either represent themselves or their respective societies— see attached brochures and visit [www.jaina.org](http://www.jaina.org) for full program and registration. Please book accommodations at the nearby Crowne Plaza Hotel (in Fullerton, tel 714-635-9000), designated for convention attendees. **Kindly indicate your interest/plans for participating in the Diaspora Conference latest by June 1, 2009 by contacting Manish Mehta at [manishm@comcast.net](mailto:manishm@comcast.net) or phone 734- 604-7989.**

JAINA feels the time is ripe for overseas Jain communities worldwide to better leverage our common identity, views and lifestyles by reaching out across borders and continents. The immediate purpose of the Jain Diaspora Conference is to begin the interchange of information about each international center's composition and activities. Once we receive your response, we will be asking you to send us advance information on the number and broad composition of Jains in your respective countries, key concerns/interests, and nature of activities pursued in your country as well as with India. A global picture would emerge, which we can prominently highlight at the 2009 JAINA Convention, which we urge you to attend. We especially want to form an intercontinental group for maintaining regular contact across global Jain communities.

The 2009 meeting of Diaspora leaders is opportune as JAINA, ever since founding in 1981 as a volunteer-run umbrella organization, ardently desires to address common societal needs and priorities, such as helping our fellow humans and creatures, empowering the next generation to preserve our traditions, and becoming significant players in global affairs. Attached list indicates recent progress made, and the vast potential by working together with Diasporas.

We eagerly look forward to hearing from you soon, and perhaps, to meet in person.

Sincerely Yours in Service,

*Dilip V. Shah*

**Dilip V Shah (President, JAINA)**

*Manish Mehta*

**Manish Mehta (Organizing Chair)**

### Jain Diaspora Conference Organizing Committee Members:

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NON-VIOLENCE  
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### Brief List of JAINA's Recent Achievements –

(near-term opportunities for Diaspora collaboration are indicated in yellow highlights)

#### President

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- **Jain Diaspora:** At the 2007 Convention, JAINA initiates a global platform for Jains all over the world with blessings from Dr. L M Singhvi
- **JAINA received UN recognition:** For its humanitarian work, UN granted consultative status to JAINA with the Economic & Social council
- **JAINA President Attended UK Jain Association's Mahavir Jayanti Program in April 2009:** this foundation has enabled closer cooperation between JAINA & UK Associations. **We welcome Diaspora leaders in future.**
- **Jain Way of Life:** A handbook for compassionate, Healthy and Happy living was published by JAINA in 2007 and has already gone into third reprinting.
- **Mangalam** – a Sunday morning JAINA TV program on Sahar TV Channel.
- **A Campus Outreach Initiative** of JAINA to organize & connect Jain Students on college campuses to each other and with local Jain centers.
- **JAINA Pilgrimage committee** organized Teerth Yatra in 2008-09 to Jaisalmer and other Teerthdhams of Rajasthan & Gujarat- **Yatra is open to UK Jains, and we are ready to extend this facility to worldwide Jain community.**
- **YJA Convention in Chicago in July 2008** energized 800 of our youngsters.
- **JAIN Milans** for matrimonial connections were held in Houston in 2008 (96 attendees) and New Jersey in 2009 (150 attendees).
- **The Pope Received JAINA Delegation** in Washington DC (2008). Ten Jains presented a custom made Ahimsa Cube to the Pope at Interfaith gathering.
- **Two international publishing houses invited JAINA** to edit material on JAINISM before they go into printing of new books.
- **Tony Blair Faith Foundation:** JAINA delegation was invited to the inauguration of a new faith-based initiative by the former UK Prime Minister.
- **JAINA launched relief operation** for the victims of Cyclone Nargis in Burma; over 2000 Health kits distributed via Ratna Nidhi Charitable Trust of Mumbai.
- **Annual JAINA Calendar** – **this colorful masterpiece highlighting our temples will be co-produced by JAINA & UK Jains. We welcome other communities too.**