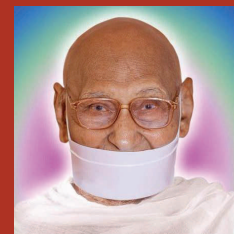




Ahimsa is Protector

Timeless Wisdom...

JVB Preksha Meditation Center Houston



Search Truth Yourself

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2007



Akshay Pragyaaji



Vinay Pragyaaji

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Swatantra Jain
(Chair Person)

Alok Jain
Hasmukh Doshi
Rita Mehta

Sampat Rampuria
Sidharaj Bhandari
Sunil Mehta
Jugal Kishor Malani
Raman Patel

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Hasmukh Patel
(President)

Ila Patel
(Vice President)

Bijay Banthia
(Treasurer)

Pramod Bengani
(Secretary)

WORKING COMMITTEE

Ajay Khater
(Gyanshala)

Dinkar Cheda
(Publicity)

Parimal Shah
(Camp and Work-shop)

Kokila Bhavsar
(Rasayanshala{Food})

Hemant Bhavsar
(Cultural Program)

FIFTH CONVOCATION OF JAIN VISHVA BHARATI UNIVERSITY

The fifth convocation of Jain Vishva Bharati University, Ladnun, India was held in the benign presence of Acharya Mahaprajna (the constitutional head of the University) on Nov 4th, 2007 at Udaipur. Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, former president of India was chief guest, and the convocation was presided over by the chancellor, Sh. Lalchand Singhi. Shri Surender Chordia, president, Jain Vishva Bharati was guest of honor. H.E. Sh. B.L. Joshi, governor of Uttarakhand and Meghalaya, and Prof. Cromwell Crawford from Hawaii University were the honorees

Causa. D. Litt. Dr. Samani Mangal Prajna, vice-chancellor, declared the convocation open. The function was started with National Anthem. Dr. Samani Mangal Prajna welcomed all the dignitaries and guests and presented a brief profile of JVB. She congratulated the award recipients and graduating students. H.H. Acharya Mahaprajna blessed the degree holders with Sikhpadam. Referring to the prevalent educational scenario, he emphasized the need of balanced education,

Contd... on last page

IN THIS ISSUE

Fifth Convocation Of Jain Vishva Bharati University

Live and Let Live: Seminar by Samani Charitra Prajna and Unnata Prajna

Tidbits

- Mantra: The Problem Solving
- Test Your Knowledge
- Voice of the Omniscient
- Calendar of Events
- Upcoming Workshops

Contact Us

JVB Houston
1712 Highway 6 S
Houston TX- 77077
Phone: 281-596-9642
info@jvbhouston.org

Mark Your Calendar for Play: MahaSati Anjana:

Saturday, January 12, 2008 (8 to 10 PM) &
Sunday, January 13, 2008 (5 to 7 PM) at the Stafford Civic Center

FIFTH Convocation OF JAIN VISHVA BHARATI UNIVERSITY





LIVE AND LET LIVE

The blessings & energy of H. H. Acharya Mahaprajna came true as the event, “LIVE & LET LIVE” on November 7th turned out to be a grand success. The program was conceptualized, designed and coordinated by the Jain nuns Samani Charitra Prajna and Samani Unnata Prajna. The event was organized by FIU and moderated by Yaniv, a nonviolent activist and student at FIU. The event had four speakers:



1. **Carole Baskin:** Carole is the founder of Big Cat Rescue organization in Tampa. She has worked through the organization to save the lives of cats.
2. **Saurabha Dalal:** Saurabha is a Jain, a vegan, and a devout promoter of nonviolence from Washington DC.
3. **Samani Charitra Prajna:** Samani Charitra Prajna, a Jain nun is leading the life of spirituality and nonviolence. Samaniji presently teaches - “Jainism & Nonviolence” at FIU.
4. **Prof. Heine:** Prof. Heine is the chair of department of Asian studies. He presented views about non-violence from a historical perspective.



Carole Baskin emphasized on Big Cats: She talked about the condition of the cats, the suffering, the torture they undergo, either for the human entertainment or research purposes. She shared data on tigers which are about to go extinct. Miss Carol Baskin's speech had relatively unknown facts about cats. Her speech emphasized that the healthy living of cats leads to their long life.

Mr. Saurabha Dalal was an enthusiastic speaker. He shared the fact that the production of meat comes at the cost of environment and exploitation of nature. One pound of meat production uses 2500 gallons of water.

Such facts were real awakening and inspiring to have healthy vegetarian diet.

Samani Charitra Prajna discussed how nonviolence brings positive influence to self, family, society, nations, and universe. Self-transformation, dedication and commitment were emphasized to resolve daily issues of life. War and violence can only bring hatred, hunger, animosity, and unhappiness.

The non-violence message touched the hearts and minds of audience. Two students shared their experience of being vegetarian. They compared animals with humans, and compared ranch animals grown for food as being jailed. The students emphasized that animal research or meat eating is selfish. Samani Unnata Prajna closed the event with word of thanks. She appreciated the community's help in organizing such a successful event to bring message of Acharya Mahaprajna to the community. The Jain community sponsored a vegetarian dinner which everyone enjoyed.

Contd... on last page





Tidbits

The Problem Solving Mantra

“om a-si-ä-u-sä namah”

- Chant everyday 1 rosary (108 times).
- Benefit: Happy and Peaceful family relations.

Test your knowledge about Jain religion

The answers of last month's questions are as follows:

Q1. What is Mohaniya Karma?

Answer: The karma which is responsible for attachment and hatred is Mohaniya (Deluding) Karma.

Q2. Explain the classification of Mohaniya Karma?

Answer: There are 2 types of Mohaniya Karma 1) Darshan (Faith-deluding) - which restricts our right faith (samyaktva) and 2) Charitra (Conduct-deluding) - which restricts monk-hood.

Q3. How does it affect the consciousness?

Answer: Due to Mohaniya Karma consciousness moves around the external world. Mohaniya Karma covers and distorts the real nature of consciousness and restricts its purity.

Questions for this month are:

1. What is Ayushya Karma (Life span determining karma)?
2. When is the life & place of next birth decided?
3. Can one change the place of next birth once it is decided?

Voice of the Omniscient

**savvam jagam jai tuham, savvam vävi dhanam bhave
savvam pi te apajjattam, neva tănäya tam tava .**

If one gets the whole world, or one possess the whole wealth, even then it can not quench one's desires, nor can it liberate one.

(Abstract From Jain Agamas)

Calendar of Events:

- ◆ Tuesday 08:00 to 09:00 PM MA in Jainology Class
- ◆ Wednesday 07:15 to 08.00 PM.: Meditation
08:15 to 09:15: Swadhyaya (on meaning of Pratikraman and Utradhya Sutra)
- ◆ Thursday 09:30 to 11.00 AM.: Yoga and meditation for General Health & Mental Peace.
- ◆ Friday 03:00 to 04:00 PM MA in Jainology Class
- ◆ Saturday 09:00 to 10.30 AM.: Yoga and meditation for General Health & Mental Peace.
- ◆ Sunday
- 1. (1st and 3rd) 10:00 to 12:15 AM : Gyanshala for Children. Meditation & Pravachan for parents.
- 2. (2nd and 4th) 10:30 to 12:00 AM.: Meditation, Pravachan & Bhajan

Notes:

Mark your calendars for the following

Play: **MahaSati Anjana:** Saturday, January 12, 2008 (8 to 10 PM) &
Sunday, January 13, 2008 (5 to 7 PM) at the Stafford Civic Center

March 21st to 23rd, 2008 **Annual Family Camp— “Enrich Aura Be Pure”** at the Gordon Ranch





FIFTH CONVOCATION OF JAIN VISHVA BHARATI UNIVERSITY

Learning awakens creativity: Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

H.H. Acharya Mahaprajna said the balanced education, which ensures three-dimensional development of an individual—Physical, Mental, and Emotional, results in positive peace in society. In his convocation address, Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam stimulated students by saying - when the knowledge acquired is



used with righteousness and courage in the educational campuses, we will have empowered and enlightened citizens, which is required for the growth of the individual and the growth of the nation. Shri Lalchand Singhi imparted oath to the faculty, members, scholars and students of the university. At this occasion 662 graduates, 875 postgraduates, 19 M. Phil's, 39 doctorates and 11 gold medals were awarded.

By: Dr. Anil Dhar

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Kantesh, the president of the Indian Students Association at FIU said, "Each word spoken, each pause in Samani's discourse, was meaningful & connected them with their lives". The students said 'You should organize such program 2 to 3 times in a year to build a nonviolent community'. For some it was a brain storming event, and for others it reinforced their dedication to vegetarianism. Some said, 'Now we have to think about our diet seriously'. A Student who was already vegetarian said, 'I am carrying enough message to inspire my friends who are not vegetarian & need some motivation towards it', Ashley Richards commented 'The events geared towards such issues are important & needed in today's fast food culture'. Stephanie Jaime said, 'This event is going to help change my life for better'. Justin Rothbert said, 'the student's testimonies, were well related to the speakers'. Above all the Unanimous voice was "Please keep us in touch with all such further events and repeat such awareness programs". Students, when asked how can we promote nonviolence, said, "nonviolence can be promoted by becoming a living example & show it to others through every day practice". Some suggested to arrange a Nonviolence Week with such informative & inspiring lectures arranged. Others demanded creating a nonviolence culture with vegetarian lifestyle & strengthening community ties."

The speakers were given Books of Acharya Mahaprajna as a token of appreciation. The audience was mostly students from various departments, and some professors. Different local organization like Earth Save joined in too. More than 225 people attended this great event making a positive spiritual atmosphere.

By: JVB News Desk

