



JAIN SOCIETY OF METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON

A NON-PROFIT TAX-EXEMPT RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION, ID #54-1139623

December, 2016 Edition

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jai Jinendra!

On behalf of the entire Executive Committee, I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy new year! Also, my sincerest thank you to all our members for their continued support and ongoing participation within the community.

On Sunday, November 6th, 2016, we had our Annual General Body Meeting held at our Jain Center. The Executive Committee, Trustees, and other Committees presented various reports during this meeting. We had three officials within the Executive Committee that were not eligible to run again as they had completed their two terms: Manna Shah, Megha Doshi, and Hemen Gandhi. I thank these individuals for their hard work, dedicated time, and perseverance throughout their tenure in last 4 years. We also have a newly appointed member, Pathik Shah, who will join us as the Director of Technology, beginning January 1st, 2017. Rather than keeping multiple positions vacant, I was fortunate enough to make executive appointments of: Vishal Mehta as the Vice President, Shilpa (Manoj) Shah as the Secretary, Bhavna Mehta as the Joint Secretary, Mina Shah as the Director of Events, and Rahul Jain as the Director of Public Relations. These individuals will help the Executive Committee from January 1st through April 30th, 2017.

As we start wrapping up the Year 2016, I hope you had an opportunity to come out and attend our special events. In August, we had Bhaktamar Poojan performed by Narendra Nandu and his group. We added uniqueness in the way we celebrated Paryushan Parva this year, by extending an opportunity to five couples to participate as King Siddharatha and Queen Trishla. Right after Paryushan and Das Lakshan Parva celebrations, we were fortunate enough to welcome yatrees from Jain Samaj of Long Island, Jain Center of New Jersey, and Chicago Mahila Mandal. Again, we offered another unique event, related to Diwali celebrations, spread across three different activities: Diwali Dinner, Jaap, Bhavna & Dandiya program on Saturday, October 29th, followed by an event with special breakfast on Sunday, October 30th, with Abhishek, Dev Shastra Guru Pooja, and Bhagwan Nirvan Ladoo Pooja. These celebrations ended with Diwali Diya contest at the Pathshala followed by special lunch.

It was my goal to organize one major event every quarter throughout 2016 calendar year. To that note, I am proud to report that the Jain's Got Talent event was an amazing and totally entertaining first time ever show, we had over 250 people attend this show with 89 participants who presented 45 items within a total time of 5 hours. Congratulations to all those who won the first and second prize trophies!

On October 18th, 2016, I had submitted my resignation to Dr. Sushil Jain, Chairman, Board of Trustees with my last day of service to the Executive Committee being December 31st, 2016. My family of three generations require my full attention now than ever before. It is for this reason that I must step back from my Executive Committee duties and devote more time to all my family obligations. Based on the request received from Dr. Jain, I have extended my association up until April 30th, 2017.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I want to thank all volunteers for their help during our past programs. Without your dedication, selfless devotion, and spirit of volunteerism we would not be successful. Your constructive comments and/or suggestions are always welcome. Please contact me at (410) 415-3033 or send me an email at President@JainSocietyDC.org.

Janak Rajani, President

Jain Society of Metropolitan Washington

BOARD OF TRUSTEES & FUNDRAISING TEAM

Dr. Sushil Jain (Chairperson, Board of Trustees & Fund Raising Team Coordinator)

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to thank and congratulate all the organizers of our monthly Poojas, Ayambil, regular events, Swapna Ceremony, Pathshala, & most recently the Jain's Got Talent event. It is not surprising to note that the spirit of togetherness is alive, helping each other in common goals. However, it is surprising to note that we have many gifted and talented performing artists of all ages in all categories. EACH AND EVERY ONE IS A WINNER.

We are also gifted with another type of Talent; that is TAPASYA. We made a concerted effort to celebrate the same at the talent show. As we gathered this information in a matter of 4 days, I apologize in advance if I forgot anyone; please help me correct our record for future acknowledgment. Congratulations to the following individuals for their many years of Tapasya:

- Special thanks to Shefali Dalal and Nayana Mehta for administering the Ayambil Chain since new temple Bhoomi Shudhi. Thanks to Bharti Khajuria & all those members who are regularly supporting this Ayambil Chain.
- Dharini Khona did Maskshaman - 30 Upvas, and Atthai for several years.
- Aruna Shah did 20 STHANAK TAP which is 400 Upvas.
- Our favorite Navin (kaka) Vora has been doing ATTHAI for last 42 years.
- Sujata Vora completed a series of UPADHAN TAP 45, 35 and 28 days, of living as SADHU.
- Jyotsna (Bhupendra) Shah just finished 20 Sthanak tap which is 400 Upvas with Ayambil and did Varsitap as well.
- Sangita Shah did 45 and 35 days UPADHAN. In addition, she has done 2 VARSITAP.
- Pravin Dand did 20 STHANAK TAP = 400 Upvas and VARSITAP and has started SAHASTRKOOT TAP.
- Atul Shah completed SAHASTRKOOT TAP, which includes 1024 Upvas in 7 years. In addition, he did 20 STHANAK TAP, which is 400 Upvas. He has already started 108 Parshwanath Tap. We encourage his success in completing the 1008 Upvas with Acharya bhagvant blessing.

In terms of Fund Raising updates, various fundraising schemes have been implemented and are gaining momentum. Our efforts in reaching out to our relatives and friends in North America & around the globe are in its infancy. In September, October & November we reached out to many potential individual donors, religious trusts and foundations, and established a regional team in India with great positive potential. However, the currency issue in India created a setback in our efforts. A small group of us is going back to India next month to continue our efforts. **We will not tire, we will not waiver from our goals**, but we may have to adjust our speed in our way to achieving our dream of building a right size state of the art Jain Center for our future generations.

We will continue our international efforts in inspiring, motivating, and persuading our supporters to build a Jain Center in the Capital of the World: "Metropolitan Washington DC".

The preliminary designs for temple and center are almost ready. A virtual tour of our Temple AND a 3D model replica of our temple will soon be ready for our grand unveiling in early 2017 followed by the groundbreaking ceremony (Khanan Vidhi) and laying of the foundation stones (Shila Ropan) few months later. We will keep you updated as we progress.

YOUTH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Sara Jain (Events Lead, Youth Committee)

From mid-November to late December, our youth group, Jain Youth of the Capital (JYOC), held a clothing drive to give back to our community. We collected in the temple via a donation box, as well as, in Pathshala with incentives for the class who collected the most. Overall, we collected a little under 3,000 items of clothing in the span of around 6 weeks. This was extremely successful for our first event!

On January 8th, 2017, these clothes will be donated to Shepherd's Table and Value Village Thrift Store, and from there will be distributed to the homeless and disadvantaged in the immediate Washington Metro area. JYOC would like to give special thanks to our Pathshala community and everyone else who donated; the drive would not have been anywhere near successful if not for all of your contributions.

TEMPLE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Arvind Shah (Chair, Temple Committee) & Ashok Shah (Construction Committee Lead)

Listed below are the activities currently in progress:

- PG County approved the preliminary site plan with some minor conditions.
- Detailed design expected from the Architect by end of November 2016. A detailed review shall take place in December 2016.
- Temple design expected from Sompura by end of December 2016.
- Samples and Quotes for the Fiber Reinforced Polyurethane (FRP) expected in November/December 2016.
- Construction Committee working with experts to finalize the Audio Visual, Security, Telecommunications and Kitchen requirements for the new temple.

Anyone interested in providing inputs, please contact Ashok Shah at (703) 946-4417 or Arvind Shah at (301) 461-6761.

PATHSHALA UPDATE

Megha Doshi (Director of Education)

We have had a fantastic opening to our 2016-17 Pathshala year with an enrollment of 145 students. Of those, 27 students also attend either Hindi or Gujarati language classes and 45 students attend advanced Sutra classes. Our team of 35+ enthusiastic teachers including our alumni students follow the JAINA curriculum emphasizing on the Jain way of life. With active parent participation & our dedicated teachers, we yearn to make each class a positive experience for the students.

Listed below, please find the highlights of Pathshala activities thus far this year –

- Essay Contest
- Paryushan / Das Lakshan Parva Matrix
- JSMW Pathshala T-shirts for all teachers and students
- Leftover Halloween Candy Collection Program – 53 lbs. collected and donated for troops overseas
- Diwali Diya Contest conducted by Pathshala PTA led by **Kinnari Koradia** and **Rupa Mehta**

Adult classes are also conducted by Dr. Atul Shah & Pravin Dand on Pathshala days between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. We encourage you to visit our website and spread the word to anyone who would like to register. Please feel free to contact Megha Doshi at Education@JainSocietyDC.org for any questions / suggestions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Special General Body Meeting: March 19th, 2017 and every 2 months subsequently

Please note that we will have a Special General Body Meeting on **Sunday, March 19th, 2017** at 10:15 a.m. at the Cloverly Elementary School located at 800 Briggs Chaney Rd Silver Spring, MD 20905 (where our Pathshala classes are held).

The Special General Body meeting will be followed by elections for current vacant positions within the Executive Committee: *President, Vice President, Secretary, Joint Secretary, Director of Public Relations, Director of Events, and Director of Facilities.*

Rules and regulations for the elections and the nomination form can be downloaded from our website or can be found in the insert provided elsewhere in this newsletter. Any member interested in serving in either of the position within the Executive Committee should send a nomination form to one of the following members of the Election Committee by midnight, February 25th, 2017: Manna Shah - Chair, Kalpana Hegde, or Allap Shah. We look forward to your participation in this meeting!

Note: Lunch will be served immediately thereafter.

Following will be the agenda for the meeting:

- Approval of the meeting minutes of the Annual General Body Meeting held on November 6th, 2016,
- Approval of the Constitution Revision and Updates, and
- Elections for the vacant positions (**07 total**) within Executive Committee.

Note: We plan to call in for a Special General Body Meeting every 8 weeks on Sunday, starting from Sunday, March 19th. To save on mailing costs, a separate notification for such meetings will be sent via electronic message only.

Mahavir Janma Kalyanak: Saturday, April 22nd, 2017

On Saturday, April 22nd, 2017, we will be celebrating Bhagwan Mahavir Swami's Janma Kalyanak, a very auspicious day for all Jains. This time, we plan to offer a unique way of celebration, with a mix of various activities to be followed by Swami Vatsalya Bhojan. We are currently working with Montgomery County Public Schools authorities to secure a school usage permit for the Paint Branch High School located at 14121 Old Columbia Pike, Burtonsville, MD 20866. Additional details regarding RSVP and sponsorship opportunities will be sent out in a separate email later.

Girnar Poojan: April 29 - 30th, 2017

We are pleased to announce two Maha Poojans during the weekend of April 29 - 30, 2017: Girnar Poojan will be performed for the first time at our Derasar. Siddhachakra Poojan will also be performed. We are honored to have Nirav Sanghvi (Kadiwala), grandson of famous poojan performer (Late) Babubhai Kadiwala come at our Jain Center and perform these Poojans at our Derasar. Please save these dates. More details will be sent, via electronic communications, as we get closer to the event.

JAINA 2017 Convention: June 30th through July 4th, 2017

The JAINA Executive Committee, JAINA Convention 2017 Convener, Gunvant Shah and its Board Members, are excited to take this opportunity to invite you, your immediate and extended family members, friends and the Jain community around the world to join highly anticipated JAINA Convention 2017. It will be held at the **NJ Convention & Exposition Center in Edison, NJ** from **Friday, June 30th, 2017 to Tuesday, July 4th, 2017**.

For the first time in JAINA history, the convention will be held for **5 days** to help you get the most out of this exciting event. Please register now, if not already, as the space is limited, and it is expected that the convention will receive a record setting number of attendees. Registration has already started, so please submit your registration at your earliest convenience.

We are informed that JAINA is planning to invite many learned scholars and high profile speakers from both within and outside of our community. Please share this invitation with anyone that would enjoy a wide variety of religious, cultural and social programs. This will be a unique opportunity -- we hope to see you there!

Paryushan Parva Celebrations: August 18 - 25, 2017

This year Samvatsari falls on Friday, August 25th, 2017. We are planning to have the Swapna Ceremony either on Saturday, August 19th or Saturday, August 26th - depending on the school availability. We have extended our invitation to Falguniben Zaveri to visit our Jain Center and grace us with her presence during the Paryushan Parva 2017 celebrations. More details will be sent, via electronic communications, as we get closer to the event.

ON-GOING EVENTS

Following are the details of the ongoing programs at the Jain Center:

- Bi-weekly Sunday School Pathshala from September to June. Please contact our Director of Education, Megha Doshi at Education@JainSocietyDC.org or (703) 200-3080.
- Adult religious classes are also held in parallel with Sunday school. Please contact Dr. Atul Shah at (301) 274-0319, or Pravin Dand at (301) 384-3367 for more information.
- Kesar/Chandan Poojan each Saturday - at 10:00 a.m.
- Snatra Pooja on 2nd Sunday of each month – at 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch.
- Dev Shashtra Guru Pooja on 4th Sunday of each month – at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 (noon) followed by lunch.
- Namokar Mantra Jaap followed by Kesar Pooja on last Saturday of each month - at 9:00 a.m.

**** ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS ****

As announced in the past newsletters, JSMW is now a certifying organization and has been granted the authority to administer President's Voluntary Service Awards to our volunteers. The President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) recognizes, celebrates and holds up as role models Americans making a positive impact as engaged and deeply committed volunteers. The Award enables community organizations – like JSMW – to amplify their gratitude by joining with the President of the United States to thank their most dedicated volunteers.

Various award categories include the official PVSA pin, medallion, or coin; a personalized certificate of achievement; a congratulatory letter from the President of the United States; or a combination of all the above.

It is very critical that you track all voluntary hours and **send a complete log with detailed information** to President@JainSocietyDC.org email address, as soon as feasible. We will ensure that your hours are entered in the PVSA system and are tracked for reaching various milestones that qualifies you to be eligible to receive one of the awards listed above.

PAST EVENTS: A BRIEF SYNOPSIS

Jain's Got Talent 2016 Event

It is my utmost pleasure to give you a full report on the Jain's Got Talent event. We had an amazing and totally entertaining first ever Jain's Got Talent show, on Saturday, December 3rd, 2016, at Shri Mangal Mandir. The event was attended by over 250 people.

This event was not possible without the selfless dedication, contribution, hard work and tireless efforts put in by many individuals, namely: Bela & Hemen Gandhi, Dimple Doshi, Raju Desai, Monica Shah, Pragnesh Shah, Sahil Shah, Jhalak & Sandeep Mehta, Savita Jain, Mily & Vishal Mehta, Shilpa (Manoj) Shah, Chetan Ajmera, Rachna Jain, Bhavesh Shah, Rajesh Rao, and Manan Shah.

Listed below is a summary of the entire event:

- The event was attended by over 250 people.
- There were 89 participants who presented 45 items that were broken down between four categories: Minors (9 years and under), Juniors (10 to 20 years), Adult Solo (21 years and over), and Adult Group (21 years and over). Participants ranged in age from 3 years to 65+ years old.
- There were a variety of items, acts and themes, singing, dancing, stand-up comedy, Bollywood fusion to playing instruments.
- The three Masters of Ceremony, Savita Jain, Jatin Shah, and Pulkit Gangwal did a wonderful job of conducting the ceremony in a typically humorous manner throughout the event for which they deserved special thanks of the organizers of the event.
- The performance of each participant was evaluated by a panel of three judges who are well respected professionals from outside the JSMW: Ustad Hamid Hossain, Sonal Patel, and Phanindar Srimath.
- The attendees were able to purchase delicious food from Mumbia Masti (a local Jain vendor) throughout the event. Menu included Pav Bhaji, Methi na Gota, Pasta, Khichu and Tea.
- Soda and water bottles were sold by Shreyal Gandhi, and the proceeds were donated back to JSMW. After standing at the booth for several hours, Shreyal still participated in the Juniors' category as NoVA Fusion.
- Delicious sweet treats: Rabdi Boondi and Cupcakes were made fresh by Minal & Pinkesh Shah, and their lovely daughters, Yashvi and Harshvi Shah. All four of them were up since 1'o clock in the early morning preparing the fresh sweets. Even though the girls had little to no sleep, they both participated in the event as V-dancers, and ultimately won second prize in their category. All proceeds that the family raised were donated back to JSMW.
- Each participant received a medal to recognize their participation. There were trophies for first and second prizes within each of the four categories. Based solely on the judges' evaluations, the winning performances within each of the four categories, were called upon the stage, and the first and second prize winners received trophies from

the judges. All three judges were given a “Special Momento” in recognition and appreciation of their time and sharing their talents.

- In the Minors (9 years and under) category, the first prize trophy was won by Vihaan Mehta and the second prize trophy was won by Dhriti Sheth.
- In the Juniors (10 to 20 years) category, the first prize trophy was won by Deesha Ajmera and the second prize trophy was won by V-Dancers: Yashvi Shah, Harsvhi Shah, Kashvi Mehta, Jaahnvi Shah, Kavya Zaveri, and Isha Rajani.
- In the Adult Solo (21 years and over) category, the first prize trophy was won by Manisha (Kunal) Jain and the second prize trophy was won by Swati Jain.
- In the Adult Group (21 years and over) category, the first prize trophy was won by Meeta & Kanti Gangar, Jhaver & Harilal Gangar and the second prize was also won by Meeta & Kanti Gangar.
- We have received all pictures for the backstage, they can be viewed at: <http://goo.gl/vjDcnr>. All video files can be viewed at: <http://goo.gl/CxG9tB>.
- Manan Shah is currently working on processing all the front-facing pictures for professional quality. We will send you a link for all those pictures once we receive it.

Annual General Body Meeting and Election Results

On Sunday, November 6th, we had our Annual General Body Meeting held at our Jain Center from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at our Jain Center. All members were invited to this meeting. The Executive Committee, Trustees, and other Committees presented various reports during this meeting. All files that were used during this meeting were already distributed to entire Sangh via an email released on Saturday, November 5th, 2016.

Within the announced timeframes, the Election Committee had received nominations from the following individuals and later these names were certified as selected without a need for further electoral process. As a result, there were NO elections on December 13th after Annual General Body Meeting.

Nominations and Selections for 2 positions within the Board of Trustees (3 Year Term):

1. Dr. Sushil Jain
2. Harshid Shah

Nominations for 13 positions within the Executive Committee (2 Year Term):

1. President: Vacant
2. Vice President: Vacant
3. Secretary: Vacant
4. Joint Secretary: Vacant
5. Treasurer: Pragnesh Shah
6. Joint Treasurer: Dipak Shah
7. Director of Facilities: Vacant
8. Director of Public Relations: Vacant
9. Director of Volunteers: Sahil Shah
10. Director of Publications: Sandeep Mehta
11. Director of Technology: Pathik Shah
12. Director of Education: Monica Shah
13. Director of Events: Vacant

Nominations for 5 Positions within Youth Committee (1 Year Term):

1. Youth Chair: Ayush Jain
2. Vice Chair: Deesha Ajmera
3. Public Relations Lead: Varun Singhai
4. Events Lead: Sara Jain
5. Membership & Records Lead: Sanket Shah

While the newly selected appointees, especially within the Executive Committee and the Youth Committee, will join the office with effect from January 1st, 2017, we take this opportunity to welcome and congratulate all newly selected appointees and thank those officials, who will be departing the office on December 31st, 2016, for their hard work, excellent support and dedication.

Also, we extend our thanks to Shilpa (Manoj) Shah for serving, yet one more time, as the Chair of the Elections Committee, as well as, Kalpana Hegde and Allap Shah for assisting us during this very important nomination and election process. The nomination cycle went by smoothly due to their tireless efforts and careful planning. A big thank you!

Finally, rather than keeping multiple positions vacant, our President was fortunate enough to make executive appointments of: Vishal Mehta as the Vice President, Shilpa (Manoj) Shah as the Secretary, Bhavna Mehta as the Joint Secretary, Mina Shah as the Director of Events, and Rahul Jain as the Director of Public Relations. These individuals will help the Executive Committee from January 1st through April 30th, 2017.

Diwali Celebrations

This year the Diwali Celebrations were tri-fold. The first gala event was for Diwali Dinner, Jaap, Bhavna & Dandiya Program on Saturday, October 29th, 2016 starting at 4:30 p.m. at our Jain Center. The event started with a special Diwali-themed dinner at 4:30 p.m. This event brought about 150 people together for a fun filled evening for sure. Highlights included a Photo Booth with the new Jain Center as the backdrop and an abundance of mithai. Everyone enjoyed the beautiful music and Bhavna from all the members closing the night with Aarti and Dandia.

The next morning, Sunday, October 30th, 2016, started at 7 a.m. with Abhishek, Dev Shastra Guru Pooja, and Mahavir Bhagwan Nirvan Ladoo Pooja, an event with over 100 people who joined the celebrations with music and singing - everyone was deeply engaged in the Poojan. The morning closed with a breakfast buffet with a table full of mithai.

In continuation, Diwali this year was also celebrated in a grand way within the JSMW Pathshala. Our Pathshala PTA had organized a Diwali Diya contest for our students. There were three categories of Diya contest based on the level of difficulty for various class levels. Nursery and Pre-Alpha students had pre-cut paper shaped Diyas which they decorated during their participation. Class A students were asked to get a round 8" paper plate and make Diya drawing / craft and decorate them as per given guidelines. Class B and above were asked to bring clay Diyas for decoration.

All the participating children did an amazing job. Our Nursery and Pre-Alpha students got educational "Kindergarten and Pre-K work book" and class A through G students received a pre-decorated Diya to encourage them for their participation.

Two to three winners were picked from each class.

- ✓ Class A winners - Ishaan Shah (1st), Saanvi Jain (2nd)
- ✓ Class B winners - Lay Shah (1st), Aanya Shah (2nd), Nishil Rajani (3rd)
- ✓ Class C winners - Haeli Shah (1st), Arya Jain (2nd), Parth Mehta (3rd)
- ✓ Class D winners - Isha Rajani (1st), Suraj Gangar (2nd)
- ✓ Class E winners - Samyak Jain (1st), Siddharth Shah (2nd)
- ✓ Class G winner - Sara Jain

Other highlights of the event include the following:

- Amazing Rangoli by **Savita Jain and Sara Jain**
- There were more than **75+** contest participants
- Entire event was organized and managed by our PTA Coordinators - **Kinnari Koradia, Rupa Mehta** and other PTA Moms
- Judges for the event - **Yash Bhupesh Mehta, Ami Shripal Shah, and Julie Mehta**
- Entire Contest prizes sponsored by **Amit and Harshada Patani**.

A big thank-you to all our participating students, Judges, PTA coordinators, PTA Room Moms and our volunteer parents for making this possible.

Three Sangh Visits from New Jersey, New York and Ohio

The feelings of unity and togetherness & spirituality were overwhelming when we had three different Jain organizations come visit us this year. For these organizations, they were on a pilgrimage to visit and pay obeisance at local temples. Such pilgrimage, also called as Chaitya Paripati, is for worship, prayers, and meditation by Jains.

This year, we had around 130 yatrees from Jain Samaj of Long Island (New York), come visit us on Saturday, October 22nd, 2016, as part of their Chaitya Paripati. The incoming Sangh proceeded straight to Cloverly Elementary School where they ate lunch first and then visited our Jain Center post-lunch for Seva Pooja and Bhavna program. We had several of our member families who joined us in welcoming these yatrees at the Cloverly Elementary School, and also who joined us during the Bhavna program, post lunch at our Jain Center.

During the weekend in mid-September, we were blessed to host 45 yatrees from Jain Center of New Jersey (Caldwell) as well as around 50 ladies from Chicago Jain Mahila Mandal on Sunday, September 18th. Both Sangh's appreciated the warm welcome and the incredible hospitality that was demonstrated by our team of volunteers.

Pravachans by Shasan Prabhavak Kashmiradidi and Viraldidi

We were blessed to have Pravachans by Shasan Prabhavak Kashmiradidi and Viraldidi, disciples of Gurudev Shree Namramuni M.S. They visited our Jain Center between Friday, September 30th and Saturday, October 1st. They talked about Amulya Manav Bhav on Friday. On Saturday, there were 2 sessions: in the morning session, they did Uvvasagahar Stotra Jaap and explained about 12 Bhavna with Microsoft PowerPoint presentation. During the afternoon session, there was a discussion on Punya/Paap and four-fold combination of Punya and Paap with Microsoft PowerPoint presentation. The Saturday session was attended by over 100 people followed by lunch that was sponsored by: Rani & Devang Ajmera, Arti & Subhash Choxi, Bhavna & Dinesh Mehta, Manna & Nilesh Shah, Nishma & Tushar Shah and Shilpa & Manoj Shah. On behalf of entire Executive Committee, we take this opportunity to thank Sonal and Chetan Ajmera for hosting both Kashmiradidi and Viraldidi at their home.

On Sunday, October 2nd, between 10:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m., both Kashmiradidi and Viraldidi did a presentation on the uniqueness of Jainism to discuss more about Science and Jainism at our Pathshala. While the student participation was at the discretion of each class teacher, we are happy to report back that there were a lot of parents who took advantage of this opportunity and attended the presentation at the Cloverly Elementary School.

Cultural Performance at the U.H.J.T. Diwali Mela

We are glad to inform you our very own **Deesha Ajmera** (daughter of Chetan and Sonal Ajmera) and **Sara Jain** (daughter of Rahul and Savita Jain) were fortunate enough to participate in Diwali Mela Cultural Program hosted by the United Hindu Jain Temples (UHJT), on Saturday, October 1, 2016 at Eleanor Roosevelt High School located at 7601 Hanover Parkway Greenbelt, MD 20770. As participants, they were fortunate enough to do a "Dhoom Machale" dance presentation, choreographed by **Savita Jain**, that had religious and cultural theme to it and consisted of both music and dance. The audience thoroughly enjoyed their performance and we thank Deesha and Sara for their willingness to perform on the stage and share their time, talents, and treasure with the attendees present at the Diwali Mela.

Lectures by Tarlaben Doshi

We are glad to inform you that Tarlaben Doshi visited our Jain Center and blessed us with Pravachans between Tuesday, September 27th to Thursday, September 29th between 8:30 and 9:30 p.m. She delivered her lectures in Gujarati with Bhajans that started from 8:15 p.m. On behalf of entire Executive Committee, we take this opportunity to thank Yash and Bhupesh Mehta for hosting Tarlaben at their home.

D.C. Veg Fest

Like in the past, JSMW hosted a booth at the annual DC VegFest for the 4th year in a row on Saturday, September 24th. We educated the DC public about plant-based proteins in a vegan diet by giving out lentil samples and packets of dry lentils that people can cook at home. This was indeed the most successful Vegfest yet, with about 3,000 samples given out and over \$600 collected through donations.

We also had an overwhelming volunteer response this year. Thank you to those who brought daal-rice samples. We had extra daal left this year, as opposed to previous years when we ran out towards the end of the Vegfest. Additionally, thank you to all who helped us raise money to cover the cost of the VegFest booth by participating in our raffle at the Swapna Ceremony.

Listed below are the individuals who played a key role in making this event possible and a successful one:

Deesha Ajmera, Arjav Jain, Sanket Shah, Sara Jain, Rushil Shah, Surmayee Jain, Aimee Doshi, Vanshika Shah, Sparsh Tatiya, Vineet Shah, Somya Padliya, Pratixa Khona, Shruti Shah, Nitin & Meeta Sogani, Sonal Ajmera, Rahul & Savita Jain, Sujaini Shah, Asha Jain, Samir & Megha Tatiya, Monica Shah, Manna Shah, Shilpa (Manoj) Shah, Astha Jain, Sonal Doshi, Sanjay & Swetha Jain, Beena Maheshwari, Kwotha Bramaramba, Nishma & Tushar Shah, and Pavan & Meenal Zaveri. A special kudos goes out to these individuals, for their willingness to go an extra mile, and for lending us their helping hand, before and on the day of the event.

Paryushan and Das Lakshan Parva celebrations

This year, for the first time, we invited our members to participate in being Bhagwan's Parents King Siddhartha and Queen Trishala during the Swapna Darshan ceremony, that was scheduled for Saturday, September 3rd at 1:00 p.m.! There was an opportunity for five couples to participate with gheeboli, starting at \$501. King Siddhartha and Queen Trishala were requested to dress up like King and Queen. Also, they were seated on the stage for their assigned Swapna's. The first two King and Queen gheeboli were completed during the Bhaktamar Maha Pooja held on Sunday, August 21st at our Jain Center.

Members had a unique opportunity to submit their gheeboli for the 3rd and 4th King and Queen sets (Swapna 7, 8, 9 and Swapna 10, 11, 12). In addition to the remaining two silent email gheebolis that were left, we also had one live gheeboli for the last King and Queen set (Swapna 13 and 14 plus final birth celebration). A lot of families took this opportunity and became a part of history!

In addition, we also inviting all Dipkumari's, under 18 years in age, to make our event more joyous and festive. These Dipkumari's participated in free dancing on stage during bhagwan birth. This was another new initiative that we took this year, and we thank all bhagyashali's for their participation in making this event a huge success!

Additionally, Das Lakshan Parva celebrations were held from September 6th through September 17th. The shravak community had the privilege of listening to the lectures by Dr. Shashi Khasgiwala from Indore, India. The topics included Das Lakshan Dharam, Gunasthan and Dravya, Gun and Paryaya.

On the auspicious day of Kshamavani, the shravak community participated with full devotion and joy in the Panch Parmeshti Vidhan. This Vidhan is simply a Puja of the five Parmeshtis and includes 146 arghas. This was led by Shrimati Alka Dhanote with explanations, music, and bhavna.

Bhaktamar Maha Poojan

Bhaktamar Maha Poojan was held on Sunday, August 21st, 2016. Shree Narendrabhai Nandu and his group did an excellent job in performing the Poojan with music and singing various religious songs, and explaining the meaning and significance of all 48 Bhaktamar Gatha using PowerPoint presentation. All participants enjoyed the whole program.

This Poojan started at 12:39 p.m. (Vijay Muhurat) with Atma Raksha, Yantra Sthapan, Bhumi Shuddhi and Poojan of Kshetrapal Dev and Chakeshvari Devi. We had 24 couples who performed the Poojan on main Yantra, whereas 14 couples performed Pooja of all 48 Gatha on a small Yantra. Other religious ceremonies were also performed on the 3 ft. X 4 ft. Mandlo. The program ended with Aarti, Mangal Divo and Shanti Kalash followed by Swami Vatsalya Bhojan sponsored by multiple families.

Cultural Performance at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission

On Tuesday, May 24th from Noon to 1:30 p.m., the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) celebrated the culture, traditions, and history of Asian Americans in the United States as part of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month celebration at its headquarters located within the Union Station, Washington, D.C.

Our very own youth member, Deesha Ajmera, stepped forward and assisted the agency officials in planning the social and cultural portion of the event. As such, she led the entire coordination piece by gathering all nominations from within our Sangh to ensure the agency had a good balance of performances, whether it included dancing to the tunes of Bollywood music, Bharat Naatyam, Kathak dance, dances learned at the Arya Academy, etc. She quickly put together a program that included a Bollywood style solo cultural performance, as well as a few Bollywood style group dances. The performances were followed by an ethnic sampling of various Indian dishes and finger food items.

On behalf of entire Executive Committee, I would like to applaud the hard work and tireless efforts put in by **Deesha** – the Emcee of the event – as it would not be the same without her leadership. Also, I would like to thank Ayush Sogani, Vanshika Shah, Sanket Shah, Rushil Shah, Ajeet Choxi, Deeya Garg, Khushi Bhansali, Shreyal Gandhi, Priyal Gandhi, and Aanya Gandhi for their performances during the event.

In appreciation of their participation, each participant received a Certificate of Appreciation that read as follows: “In appreciation of your traditional Indian dance demonstration at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission’s May 2016 Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month celebration.” This certificate was officially signed by the Commissioner Michael S. Piwowar (Sponsor of the event) and Pamela A. Gibbs, SEC Chief Diversity Officer. These certificates were distributed to all participants during the Summer Picnic and Fun event held on Sunday, July 17th, 2016 at Lake Fairfax Park located in Reston, VA.

Our sincere apologies for not including this coverage in our Aug-2016 newsletter. It was merely an accidental oversight!!

DID YOU KNOW?

This year Maryland Hindu Milan Mandir hosted their Diwali Show and Dinner program at the River Hill High School in Clarksville, MD on Saturday, November 12th, 2016. As part of this event, they hosted Miss Diwali Pageant along with live music and dance performances also.

We are extremely happy to share with you that our very own **Sara Jain** (daughter of Rahul and Savita Jain) participated in this competitive pageant show. While she did not win the competition, she gained a lot of experience from her participation. Congratulations **Sara**, we all are proud of you!

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Test your knowledge of Jain Religion and Philosophy by answering the questions listed below. Answers are located at the bottom of Page-14 of this newsletter.

1. Anagram (Rearrange the letters and find the word related to Jainism):
 - a. "VIDHI RANG CHAND"
Hint 1: He became the first honorary secretary of the Jain Association of India at the age of 21
Hint 2: He attended the World Religions Conference along with Swami Vivekananda
 - b. "KI HAS HAMSTER"
Hint: 20 Tirthankars attained Nirvana from this Tirth place
2. Rearrange each disordered set of letters to get words related to Jainism.

luso		huspyaran		ramka		tamideet		turive
seactic		thaif		ritusipal		giorelin		thinaar
3. Who am I?
 - a. My feet were chained, I was locked in the basement for three days without food and my head was shaved. I was fortunate enough to offer food to Bhagawan Mahavir after his six month fast, and I became his first female disciple.
 - b. Her two hands hold a veena, a musical instrument. Her other two hands hold a mala and a book. Who is this goddess?

TREASURER'S REPORT

Pragnesh Shah (Treasurer) & Dipak Shah (Joint Treasurer)

Following is a list of all donations received between November 1st, 2015 and October 31st, 2016. Jain Society sincerely appreciates your generous donations. Please check the below list, if we have missed anyone's name or if you find any error, please do let us know by sending an email to Treasurer@JainSocietyDC.org.

Donations for Current Temple (Between \$3,500 and \$501)					
Pratik R Desai	\$3,201	Kamlesh & Chandrika Shah	\$1,105	Mitul & Padma Shah	\$711
Amit & Vandana Pamecha	\$3,000	Autumn Dhanote & Nidhi Jain	\$1,102	Pradhuman & Laxmi Zaveri	\$701
Kamlesh & Gita Shah	\$2,903	Arvind & Nayana Mehta	\$1,087	Sheel & Tejal Lodaya	\$692
Deep & Hiral Desai	\$2,773	Dipak & Nila Shah	\$1,074	Smitesh & Jigna Sheth	\$668
Nilesh & Manna Shah	\$2,668	Megha Tatiya	\$1,072	Umed & Shakuntala Shah	\$668
Pavan & Meenal Zaveri	\$2,456	Sanjay & Indu Jain	\$1,062	Naren & Datta Khona	\$664
Devang & Rani Ajmera	\$2,393	Pravin & Veena Dand	\$1,007	Bhavesh & Ketki Maisheri	\$656
Deepak & Sunila Merchant	\$2,355	Ashish & Shilpa Jain	\$1,003	Jatin & Parul Jain	\$656
Dr. Manoj & Kanta Dharamsi	\$2,339	Nimesh & Vaishali Chheda	\$1,003	Ramesh & Priti Mehta	\$655
Jain Samaj Of Long Island	\$2,323	Dr. Navin C. Shah	\$1,001	Mahaveer & Anitha Nabiraj	\$653
Ashok & Pallavi Shah	\$2,247	Sanjay & Bela Shah	\$1,001	Pramod & Kalpana Singhai	\$653
Pinkesh & Minal Shah	\$2,240	Jatin & Ami Shah	\$999	Gautam & Dhruvi Shah	\$628
Nilesh & Megha Doshi	\$2,155	Pinkesh Jain	\$999	Harshid & Hemangini Shah	\$612
Sandeep & Jhalak Mehta	\$2,088	Jaimini shah	\$965	Gunvanti Bhavsar & Pinkesh Gala	\$606
Ajit & Shilpa Shah	\$2,004	Vinod K Singhai and Seema Jain	\$954	Jadhavji & Meena Gangar	\$605
Hemen & Bela Gandhi	\$1,907	Rahul & Savita Jain	\$942	Saurabh Dalal	\$605
Kishor & Jayshree Mahadevia	\$1,802	Amit & Harshada Patani	\$941	Harsukh & Rekha Kamani	\$604
Allap & Sheetal Shah	\$1,801	Chetan & Sonal Ajmera	\$940	Sanjay & Swati Jain	\$602
Jatin & Toral Shah	\$1,769	Parag & Nirali Mehta	\$937	Shanti & Urmila Shah	\$602
Sanjay kumar Jain	\$1,695	Ashok & Mina Shah	\$925	Puneet & Mamta Jain	\$587
Paresh & Kavita Modi	\$1,565	Manoj & Shilpa Shah	\$923	Kantilal & Meeta Gangar	\$586
Vishal & Mily Mehta	\$1,560	Bhavesh & Nita Shah	\$902	Kalpesh & Nita Shah	\$571
Jay & Rakhi Jariwala	\$1,558	Sailesh & Mona Shah	\$876	Sunil & Pallavi Dharamsi	\$571
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Pragneshkumar & Sonal Shah	\$1,348	Ruby Mehta	\$804	Krunal & Darsha Desai	\$521
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Damini Jain	\$1,253	Atul & Aruna Shah	\$753	Dinesh & Bhavna Mehta	\$509
Jasvant & Urmila Doshi	\$1,205	Narendra & Sangita Shah	\$752	Gyan & Kumi Shah	\$502
Sushil & Asha Jain	\$1,203	Nayan & Jyotsana Shah	\$752	Harilal & Jhaver Gangar	\$502
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Nitin & Meeta Sogani	\$301	Anand Jain	\$151	Ashwin & Nayana Mehta	\$51
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Shah Associates	\$85,000	Bipin & Aruna Shah	\$2,501	Praveen & Sunita Jain	\$2,300
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Kamlesh & Gita Shah	\$9,357	Kirit & Bharti Khajuria	\$2,501	Anish Shah, Jayvanti Shah & Nipa Shah	\$1,001
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Kamlesh & Gita Shah	\$5,002	Paresh & Kavita Modi	\$2,501	Kamlesh & Arti Shah	\$501
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Bhupesh & Yash Mehta	\$5,000	Shobhnaben Chandrakant Shah	\$2,501	Jasvant & Urmila Doshi	\$151
Jayesh & Rupa Mehta	\$5,000	Ashwin & Nayana Mehta	\$2,500	Pramathesh & Minaxi Broker	\$108
Manu & Niru Shah	\$5,000	Kantilal & Meeta Gangar	\$2,500	Sunil & Seema Jain	\$101
Satish & Mayuri Shah	\$5,000	Manchand & Nirmala Maloo	\$2,500	Vimal & Sejal Doshi	\$101
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Arvind & Nayana Mehta	\$2,501	Nitin and Meeta Sogani	\$2,500		

VIDEOS AND PICTURES FROM 1980

We are creating a collection of our past pictures and videos taken at various JSMW events for marketing and showcasing purposes.

If you have any photographs and/or videos from past JSMW events, we request you to submit them via email to Marketing@JainSocietyDC.org.

If you have difficulty emailing us the pictures/videos, please let us know, we can help you with scanning / converting (tapes, etc.) and uploading the pictures and videos. We want to thank all of you who have already provided us the pictures and videos so far.

The pictures and videos can be from any event like Pravachans, Poojans, Vidhis, Bhavna's, scholar visits, camps, health fair, DC Kitchen, Panch Tirth Yatra, Pathshala, (Pathshala kids' activities, picnic, social & community service events, etc.)

Please forward this email to others who might own/have access to pictures/illustrations of the respective period. We are grateful for every hint and/or photograph/video and the permission to publish it online and in print media and for every hint to respective sources/archives (private and public).

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION CORNER: OUR UNSUNG HEROES

Volunteers are worth their weight in gold. They share their time and talents without any compensation, so it's crucial to acknowledge their contributions and let them know they are valued. We are introducing this new section to recognize these individuals, our volunteers, our unsung heroes.

We recognize that volunteers are not the same as employees. They can choose to stay or walk away at any time without any real loss to themselves, and that's one reason why it's so important to show our appreciation. They are critical to the success of our Sangh, so we want to make sure that we take time to thank them, and remind them of how special they really are!

If you know of any individual(s) who you feel should be recognized in this section, please feel free to send their name(s) to Volunteers@JainSocietyDC.org any time. We will recognize you for your submission along with the names of volunteers that you have sent us in our next newsletter.

For this time, we have received the following names from Shilpa (Manoj) Shah and would like to thank the following individuals (in no specific order) and recognize the compassion they have shown in all tasks they were assigned during the recent Sangh Visits and during the Jain's Got Talent show:

Raju Desai, Chetan Ajmera, Nilesh (Manna) Shah, Manoj Shah, Rushil Shah, Keyuri Rajani, Jhalak Mehta, Mily Mehta, and Rachna Jain.

DID YOU KNOW?

Per the National Eagle Scout Association's website (www.nesa.org), the fact that a boy is an Eagle Scout has always carried with it a special significance, not only in Scouting but also as he enters higher education, business or industry, and community service. The Eagle Scout award is a performance-based achievement whose standards have been well-maintained over the years. Not every boy who joins a Boy Scout troop earns the Eagle Scout rank; only about 5 percent of all Boy Scouts do so. This represents more than 2 million Boy Scouts who have earned the rank since 1912. Nevertheless, the goals of Scouting—citizenship training, character development, and personal fitness—remain important for all Scouts, whether they attain the Eagle Scout rank or not.

It is our utmost pleasure to inform you that **Moksh Shah** (son of Harshid and Hemangini Shah) is currently working towards this rank. As part of that effort, Moksh has proposed that he will work on a service project that shall benefit JSMW. The service project includes renovation of the Children's playground and add a walk way leading to it. Congratulations **Moksh**, we all are proud of you and wish you all the very best in fulfilling your goal of achieving the Eagle Scout rank very soon!

Answer Key to Test Your Knowledge

Following is the answer key to the Test Your Knowledge section located on bottom of Page-10:

1a: Virchand Gandhi and 1b: Samet Shikhar.

2 - soul, paryushan, karma, meditate, virtue, ascetic (sadhu and sadhvi), faith, spiritual, religion, arihant.

3a: Chandanbala and 3b: Saraswati Devi (Goddess of Knowledge).

WAYS TO DONATE: STOCKS, UNITED WAY, ETC.

There are four ways to maximize your 2016 Gift to JSMW for year-end tax benefits for yourself and Charitable organization like JSMW.

1. *Receive a tax deduction with a cash gift:* Deduct up to 50% of your Annual Gross Income (AGI) if you itemize deductions. When cash gifts exceed this limit, carry over the excess donation for up to five additional years. Various ways to make cash donation to JSMW:
 - Write a check payable to 'JSMW' and mail it to: JSMW at P.O. Box 4548 Silver Spring, MD 20914
 - Pay online using your credit card, debit card, or your checking account information via PayPal using following link: <http://jsmw.org/donations/>
 - Contact our Treasurer, Pragnesh Shah, at (301) 305-4261 to make donation using a credit card.
2. *Avoid capital gains tax with a gift to JSMW of appreciated securities:* Claim a federal income tax charitable deduction for the full appreciated value of the securities held for more than one year up to 30% of your AGI. If the value exceeds this limit, carry over the excess deduction for up to five years. There will be no capital gains tax for the gifted securities.
3. *Make a gift and receive income:* Consider a charitable gift annuity or a charitable remainder trust. Both produce an immediate income tax deduction for the charitable value of your gift and income payments that can start immediately or in the future. Additional benefits apply if your gift is funded with appreciated securities.
4. *IRA charitable Rollover:* If you are 70 ½ or older, you can transfer up to \$100,000 directly from a traditional IRA to the JSMW. The distribution counts towards some or all of IRA's required minimum distribution (RMD) and the transfer is excluded from taxable income.

For making gift to JSMW using stocks/securities directly to JSMW account from your brokerage account using method #2, #3 or #4 listed above, you will need to provide following information to your financial institution:

- Name of Broker / Clearing Firm: NFS (National Financial Services)
- Name of the Account: Jain Society of Metropolitan Washington (JSMW)
- Account number: STL-157090
- DTC Number: 0226
- Phone Number: 800-747-6111

If you have any additional questions for item #2, #3, or #4, please feel free to call JSMW broker Raju Desai at (410) 992-4904 or email him at r.sdesai@yahoo.com and mention **JSMW**.

JAIN SOCIETY OF METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON

A NON-PROFIT TAX-EXEMPT RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION, ID #54-1139623

JAIN CENTER LOCATION: 1021 BRIGGS CHANEY ROAD, SILVER SPRING, MD 20905 • PHONE (301) 236-4466

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 4548, SILVER SPRING, MD 20914 • **WEB:** WWW.JSMW.ORG

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
FORWARDING POSTAGE GUARANTEED**

2017 Calendar of Events

Date	Program
Sun, 03/19/17 – 10:15 a.m.	Special General Body Meeting at Cloverly Elementary School
Sat, 04/22/17	Mahavir Janma Kalyanak Celebrations (Location: TBD)
Sat, 04/29/17 and Sun, 04/30/17	Girnar Poojan
Fri, 06/30/17 till Tue, 07/04/17	JAINA Convention in Edison, NJ
Fri, 08/18/17 till Fri, 08/25/17	Paryushan Parva Celebrations with Dr. Falguniben Zaveri
Sat, 08/26/17 till Mon, 09/04/17	Das Lakshan Parva Celebrations
Sunday, every 8 weeks, Dates TBD	Recurring General Body Meeting

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2017 ELECTIONS NOMINATION FORM

To Be Filled By Nominator:

I hereby nominate: _____ for the position of (select one only):

- President (Executive Committee)
- Vice President (Executive Committee)
- Secretary (Executive Committee)
- Joint Secretary (Executive Committee)
- Director of Facilities (Executive Committee)
- Director of Public Relations (Executive Committee)
- Director of Events (Executive Committee)

Date	Full Name of the Nominator	Signature of the Nominator
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To Be Filled By Nominee:

I accept the above nomination, and if elected, agree to serve the JSMW to the best of my abilities. Furthermore, I certify with my signature below, that I have read the amended Constitution, approved on September 30th 2012, in its entirety.

Date	Signature of the Candidate	E-Mail Address
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Home Phone Number	Cell Phone Number	Office Phone Number
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Nomination Form completely filled and signed by Nominator and Nominee must be received by any of the following members of the Election Committee by midnight Saturday, February 25th, 2017:

- : 2017 ELECTION COMMITTEE : -

Manna Shah, Chair

5812 White Pebble Path

Clarksville, MD 21029

Phone: 240-498-6183

Email: ShahManna@Yahoo.com

Kalpna Hegde

626 Winners Cir

Catonsville, MD 21228

Phone: 410-744-6009

Email: KHegde4@Yahoo.com

Allap Shah

13417 Latrobe Ln

Clarksburg, MD 20871

Phone: 562-587-5524

Email: AllapShah@gmail.com

The list of nominees will be posted at www.JSMW.org on Saturday, October 22nd, 2016. **Elections, if necessary, will be held during the Special General Body meeting** scheduled on **Sunday, March 19th, 2016 at 10:15 a.m.** at Cloverly Elementary School located at 800 Briggs Chaney Rd Silver Spring, MD 20905.

This form is based on the amended constitution, approved on Sunday, September 30, 2012. Please find the approved amended constitution online at www.JSMW.org.

This nomination form must be filled for any of the positions listed in the above form.

Executive Committee (EC): There are **07** positions listed in the above form that are part of the Executive Committee. These positions will have a special term and will serve in the Executive Committee between the periods: May 1st, 2017 through December 31st, 2018. This will bring the entire Executive Committee to the same election cycle.



JAIN SOCIETY OF METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON

A NON-PROFIT TAX-EXEMPT RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION, ID #54-1139623

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR ELECTIONS

1. RESTRICTIONS

- Only members with voting rights are eligible for contesting for election.
- A member can be nominated for only one elected position.
- Only one member of a member family can contest for any one position in the EC since the Constitution does not allow more than one person of the same family in the EC during the same cycle.
- All candidates must be present at elections unless the candidate provides a written notice to the Elections Committee in advance.
- A person can be elected to the same position on the EC for a maximum of two (2) consecutive terms, starting with this special term.

2. VOTING RIGHTS

- Members of JSMW may vote at a General Body Meeting provided their membership is paid and in good standing 30 days prior to the General Body Meeting.
- New members paying membership dues after that 30 day period will be eligible to vote at the next General Body Meeting.

3. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Executive Committee Nominees: To be eligible for election to the EC, a person must be a life member of the Society for at least two years prior to the year of the election. For the President, a candidate must have held a position on the EC for at least 2 complete terms to be eligible. For the Vice President, a candidate must have held a position on the EC for at least 1 complete term to be eligible.

Eligibility Requirements for Nominators: A person who is eligible for casting a vote during the elections is also eligible for nominating a candidate for that position.

4. GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

- During the ballot counting process, one representative from each candidate shall be allowed to witness entire counting process, along with the Election Committee members.
- During the General Body meeting, the voting right of a Member may be suspended by the Election Committee Chair, if such Member is causing any sort of disruption to the General Body meeting. Shouting or otherwise disrupting the General Body meeting, talking during a Member's address, or while meeting/election is in progress may result in the Election Committee Chair ejecting the offending Member from the meeting/election venue.
- Election Committee or their representative(s) will have a right to ask for a photo identification to identify the member and to validate proof of age, if needed.
- JSMW Secretary shall provide Membership list [Name, Address, and Primary Phone Number], upon request, to the candidates that are deemed eligible by the Election Committee (eligibility is usually verified 22 days prior to the Election Day). Such list should ONLY be used by the eligible candidates and ONLY for election campaigning purposes. Eligible candidates shall be required to sign a non-disclosure agreement that clearly communicates to the eligible candidates that such Membership list shall be solely used for the election purposes and cannot be misused or sold to others for any reason. If any member has requested their contact information not be publicly published, such information shall be excluded from the Membership List.
- JSMW Secretary should be responsible for maintaining latest membership list and ensuring latest Membership list is cut-off solely for the Election purposes (Membership List is frozen) based on 30 calendar days prior (before) to the Election Day.
- Ballots that are determined to be fraudulent or duplicates may be disqualified at the Election Committee's discretion with just cause. Disputes will be handled by the Board of Trustees.
- If two candidates get an equal number of votes, then the tie will be broken by a random draw.