



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 • PHONE: (301) 236-4466

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 4548, SILVER SPRING, MD 20914

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Niru Shah, Editor

shah_niru@hotmail.com

NO3-1 February, 2003

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Kanta Dharamsi
703-620-9837

Vice-President

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410-480-2666

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Niru Shah
410-551-8324

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703-723-9363

Treasurer

Manu J. Shah
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Joint-Treasurer

Ashok R. Shah
301-260-1264

Members-At-Large

Sushil Jain
301-670-0519

Kamlesh P. Shah
301-933-8123

Kamlesh R. Shah
301-838-9778

Past President

Pravin Dand
301-384-3367

Board of Trustees Chairman

Manoj Dharamsi
703-620-9837

Trustees

Bachubhai Ajmera
301-924-8070

Bhavi Jain
703-425-6662

Atul Shah
301-274-0319

Youth Committee Coordinator

Nisha Jain
703-425-6662

Members

Pinkesh Bhavsar
301-598-7464

Raj Dharamsi
540-825-4977

Pathik Shah
301-260-1264

Rishita Shah
410-418-4411

President's Message

Jai Jinendra. Last year, we had a very busy schedule and accomplished a lot. Reports on accounts, activities and accomplishments in 2002 are given in this Newsletter. We, the members of the Executive Committee, are committed to continue doing our best. However, we would like to have more participation by all members. If you have any suggestions, please feel free in conveying those to me personally.

List of various programs scheduled so far is given on the last page. Mr. Chandrakantbhai Mehta from New Jersey, an excellent Jain scholar and orator, has kindly accepted our invitation to grace our Paryushan Parva celebration this year. You must have heard his audio-tapes or seen his Video tape on Samayik, or may have heard him in person at JAINA conventions. Another new speaker scheduled is Nautambhai Vakil who gave an inspiring Pravachan to few who attended his 2-hour program arranged on a very short notice.

Sunday school activities including new adult classes are in full swing. We are working on scheduling other programs including Pravachan by scholars, Siddhachakra Maha Poojan, and religious camp and other programs for children. These programs will be announced as and when they get finalized. I personally request all of you to take part in these various activities.

Looking forward to full support and participation from all of you to make 2003 another active year.

Kanta Dharamsi

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mahavir Jayanti

Celebration - April 12

Mahavir Jayanti celebration will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2003 starting at 2:30 p.m. As in the past, the celebration will include stage programs (religious dances, prayer songs, religious drama and skit, etc.) by our children. Please note that we would like to limit the stage program to items performed in a group of 2 or more participants. Items performed by single artists will be allowed only if time permits it. Please provide details of your entries to Kamlesh/Chandrika Shah at 301-933-8123 or Harshit/Hemangini Shah at 703-723-9363 before March 15, 2003. The stage program will be followed by a Swami Vatsalya Bhojan (Details on the next page).

The program will be held at the nearby **Briggs Chaney Middle School** on 1901 Rainbow Drive, Burtonsville (Phone: 301-989-6000). Directions are given below:

FROM I-495: Take exit # 28A for New Hampshire Avenue North (Route 650N). Drive about 5.5 miles and turn right on the traffic light for Good Hope Road (called Bonifant Road on the left side). Pass one traffic light (Briggs Chaney Road). After about half a mile, turn right on the stop sign for Rainbow Drive. After 0.3 mile, the school will be on your right.

FROM I-95: Take exit # 33 (Route 198 West) towards Burtonsville. After about 5 miles, turn left on Good Hope Road. Drive about half a mile and turn left on the stop sign for Rainbow Drive. The school will be on your right.

Mahavir Jayanti Swami Vatsalya Bhojan

Since we do not have any sponsor for the Swami Vatsalya Bhojan, we will collect donations from members to meet the expenses for the dinner. A form for taking part in the dinner is enclosed. Members are requested to send this form along with a check for a minimum donation of \$6.00 per person (over age 5) so as to reach before March 31, 2003. You may mail this form to the address given on the form or give it to any member of the executive committee. However, the form along with a check for donation must be received by March 31, 2003 so as to enable us to arrange for food for all participants. Forms sent without the donation check will not be accepted.

We will make arrangement for some extra food to accommodate members who do not inform us by this deadline of March 31. Such members as well as guests and non-members can take part in the Swami Vatsalya Bhojan by donating a minimum of \$8.00 per person to the Swami Vatsalya fund.

Ayambil on April 13

Ayambil program will be held at noon on Sunday April 13. It will be sponsored by Anjana Joglekar. If you wish to take part, please call her at 301-989-0581.

Jain Scholars

So far, we have finalized with 3 scholars to be at our center to share their knowledge with us. They are: Sunandaben Vohora (July 6-12), Nautambhai Vakil (Aug 2-6), and Chandrakantbhai Mehta (Paryushan). We have also invited other scholars for Pravachan, and Narendrabhai Nandu for performing Siddha Chakra Maha Poojan. These programs, when finalized, will be announced in future Newsletters, and will also be posted on our website. We suggest that you always check our website www.jsmw.org for updated information.

JAINA Convention

The 12th Biennial JAINA Convention will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio from July 3-6, 2003. Details and registration information can be obtained on the web site www.jainaconvention.org.

PAST EVENTS General Body Meeting and Elections

A General Body Meeting was held at the Jain Center on Sunday, December 8, 2002. Our president, Kanta Dharamsi presided over the meeting and welcomed all attendees. The meeting started with annual reports on Sunday School by Kamlesh Shah, a report on youth committee activities by Hemal Jhaveri, on JAINA activities by Sushil Jain, on United Association of Hindi & Jain Temples activities by Manu G. Shah, on our Jain Society activities by secretary Niru Shah, on our financial status by treasurer Manu J. Shah, and on our accomplishments by president Kanta Dharamsi. Reports given at the general meeting by the secretary, treasurer, and president are published elsewhere in this newsletter. After the reports, elections were conducted by Kanubhai Doshi. Elections were followed by a lively and open discussion on current activities and future agenda for the society.

Names of persons elected for various positions in the Executive Committee, Board of Trustees and Youth Committee in 2003 are shown in the left hand column of the first page.

Report on Activities in 2002 SECRETARY'S REPORT

Jai Jinendra. We had numerous activities this year as follows:

- **Regular Sunday classes for children and adults:** In the adult's category we have also added Beginners' Adult Class. A full report was provided by Kamlesh Shah. Thanks to all teachers: Anjali Dalal, Pravin Dand, Veena Dand, Rajni Gosalia, Arvind Mehta, Atul Shah, Kamlesh Shah, Ranjan Shah, Rupal Shah, and Kashmira Vaywala
- **Celebration of Mahavir Jayanti with children's stage programs:** The stage program performed by our youngsters included prayer songs, prayer dances, Jain Stutis, skits and two dramas. The highlight of

the program was the drama “Megh Kumar” performed with excellent costumes and background scenes. Invited guests included Mr. Anil Choudhry, Minister for Community Affairs, Embassy of India, and Rev. Clark Lobestine, Executive Director of the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington. During Mahavir Jayanti program Dr. Sushil Jain was recognized for his outstanding contributions to the Jain Society and JAINA.

- **Celebration of 2601st Birth Anniversary of Bhagwan Mahavir:** This event was celebrated at the residence of the ambassador of India. It was jointly sponsored by the Embassy of India and the Jain Community of North America represented by the Jain Society of Metropolitan Washington and the JAINA. H. E. Ambassador Lalit Mansinghji and Mrs. Indira Mansinghji personally welcomed all attending guests and members of our Society. This unique celebration was attended by over 300 people including leaders of different faiths from the Interfaith Organizations of Metropolitan Washington, and the United Association of Hindu & Jain Temples of Washington.
- **Paryushan Parva celebration:** We had a very good celebration throughout the week with excellent Pravachan by Samani Shree Mangal Prajnaji and Prasanna Pragyaji. Pravachans attracted a large audience every day. 15 persons stayed at the temple during Paryushan. Seven members performed Atthai, whereas one member performed fast for 16 days. Over 600 people participated in the Swapna ceremony. About 300 adults and 75 children participated in the performance of the Samvatsari Pratikraman.
- **Celebration of Das Lakshan Parva:** Mr. Ramnikbhai Savla, a Jain Scholar from India, graced the celebration for 10 days.
- **Pravachan by Jain Scholars:** During this year, we were fortunate to have Pravachan programs by numerous other Jain Scholars including Dhirajlalji Mehta, Jinchandraji (Bandhu Triputi), Heera Ratan Manek, Sunandaben Vohora, Manak Muniji, Nautambhai Vakil and of course, Gurudev Shree Chitrabhanu. All the programs were very well attended.

- **Pooja programs:** Numerous Poojas were held at the Jain Center as well as at the members’ homes. We thank all members of the Pooja committee for doing an outstanding job, viz.: Veena & Pravin Dand, Manoj & Kanta Dharamsi, Jasvant Doshi, Jyoti & Kanu Doshi, Jay Gangar, Kanti & Meeta Gangar, Kamlesh Shah, and Sanyukta & Arvind Shah.
- **Ayambil programs:** Ayambil programs were held at the Jain Center in April, October and November (Thanksgiving day).
- **Fun Fair & Open House:** We had an excellent participation in this program held at the Jain Center. Thanks to Shah Associates for arranging various medical tests including blood test and EKG. Also thanks to all food vendors and participants.
- **Nav Smaran:** Over 200 persons attended Nav Smaran program held at the Jain Center on the Indian New Year’s Day.
- **Diwali Mela:** Diwali Mela program arranged by the Association of United Hindu & Jain Temples of Washington was attended by over 12000 persons. Our representative Sushil Jain played a major role in the celebration.
- **Richmond Sangh’s Visit:** 25 members of Richmond Jain Sangh came by bus to visit our temple. A large number of our members were present to welcome them.
- **Mercers Bury Academy’s Visit:** 15 high school students led by Rabbi Harold White visited Jain Center as part of their religious studies. Various questions on Jainism asked by the students were satisfactorily answered by our Sunday school youths.
- **Prayer at National Cathedral:** A memorial prayer for 9/11 was held at the National Cathedral by the Association of United Hindu & Jain Temples of Washington. The prayer started with reciting of Navkar Mantra, Mangalik, and Jain prayer song by Samani Shree Mangal Prajnaji and Prasanna Pragyaji. It was followed by Hindu prayers, and then, reading of the names of innocent victims.
- **Memorial Service for the Victims of Sniper Attack** hosted by Governors of Maryland and Virginia. Program started with interfaith prayers led by Jain prayer. 500 persons along with both Governors, Chief Executives, and senior police officers attended the services

- **Temples open on Sundays from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.:** Thanks to Chandubhai Sanghvi for his services of keeping the temple open.

Overall, 2002 was a very busy year. Thanks to all volunteers for making all programs very successful.

Niru Shah, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

At the general body meeting, Treasurer, Manu J. Shah, presented the financial report. The total revenue received from January 1 through December 8, 2002 was \$76,406, whereas the total expenses during the same period were \$53,988.

President's Report on Accomplishments in 2002

Jai Jinendra. You heard from our secretary, Niru Shah, details of the large number of activities held this year. It was a certainly a very busy year. I would like to summarize various other important accomplishments this year.

We have been successful in increasing our membership and converting 3-year members to life members. As of today, we have a membership of 440 families including 400 life members

We have done a number of additional improvements to our Jain Center this year. These include remodeling the upstairs and downstairs bathrooms, adding two new bathrooms and closing the bathroom near temple, adding a sink and vanity in the large room upstairs, changing the carpet, putting a large concrete flooring, and a number of other repairs.

Our web site is being kept updated. Thanks to Kala Jain for keeping it up-to-date. We have started using e-mails to send out short lead-time messages to members. Thanks to Nisha Jain for that. We still do not have e-mail addresses of all our members, and need to get e-mail addresses of all our members.

Sushil Jain, Kanu Doshi, and Manoj Dharamsi are taking active part in the interfaith activities. Both the 9/11 Prayer program at the National Cathedral as well as the memorial services for victims of sniper

shooting started with Jain prayer. Lectures on Jainism were also delivered at various places by Kanubhai. Thanks to Sushil, Kanubhai and Manoj.

Our members are taking active part in the planning of the next convention in July 2003. Our members are also taking active part in various JAINA committees viz. Constitution, Convention, Executive, Interfaith, Mahavir Memorial, Membership, Public Relations, Temple Guidelines, and World Community Service Committees. Thanks to Bachubhai Ajmera, Bhadrash Dhila, Manoj Dharamsi, Sushil Jain, Prakash Mehta, and Kamlesh R. Shah.

I would like to thank all members of my executive committee, all teachers, members of Pooja Committee, Youth Committee, Trustees and all those other members who provided their support in carrying out various activities this year. We had Swami Vatsalya Bhojan during 4 programs this year. Thanks to all the sponsors. Also, thanks to members for their generous Gheeboli donations and also other generous donations.

We, the members of the Executive Committee, have done our best. However, we would like to have more participation by all members in various programs. Also, we would like to see more activities and more participation by our younger generation, the future pillars of our Society.

While carrying out various activities, if we have unknowingly hurt feelings of any one, on behalf of the Executive Committee and me, I request their forgiveness. Michchhami Dukkadam.

Kanta Dharamsi, President

Swami Vatsalya Sponsors

We do not have any sponsors for Swami Vatsalya Bhojan during Mahavir Jayanti (April 12), Swapna Ceremony (August 30), and Diwali program (November 9). Swami Vatsalya Bhojan can be sponsored by one family or a group of families. Alternatively, you can make a donation of \$500 or more to the Swami Vatsalya Fund to join a group of sponsors for Swami Vatsalya during one of these programs. Interested members are requested to contact Kanta or Manoj Dharamsi at 703-620-9837.

Jain Sunday School

Jain Sunday School is open to all children. The school year is from September through May and the classes are held on 2nd and 4th Sundays from 10:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. It consists of 5 different levels of classes (A through E) each following a regular curriculum. We urge all the members to take advantage of this unique opportunity, and enroll their children in Sunday school. For details, please contact Kamlesh Shah at 301-838-9778.

New Adult Classes on Jainism

Beginner's Adult classes to provide basic knowledge of Jainism started in September. These classes are being held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays from 10:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in parallel with children's classes. These classes cover basic principles of Jainism and are being taught by Dr. Atul Shah. Over 40 adults are currently attending these classes. As followers of Jain religion, it is incumbent upon us to know at least the basic principles. It is even more important for the parents of children attending children's classes to know these basic principles, as their children are learning similar principles in their classes. All members are encouraged to join these classes.

Adult Classes

Two other advanced adult classes are also held on Sundays. For details, please contact Pravin Dand at 301-384-3367 or Rajni Gosalia at 301-464-5947.

JSMW Representatives

Manoj Dharamsi and Sushil Jain will represent our Jain Society at JAINA as directors. They will also represent our temple at the Association of United Hindu & Jain Temples of Washington, and at interfaith activities in Metro Washington area.

Montgomery Gazette

Reporter Brooke Stanley from Montgomery Gazette visited our temple on February 9 morning while the Sunday Classes were in session. She interviewed and photographed our children. Montgomery Gazette will be publishing an article on the activities of the Sunday school along with the photographs of Sunday school children in the gazette.

Visit Our Web Site

Our website www.jsmw.org provides details on our Jain Society and Jain Center, directions, planned programs, updates, etc. Please visit the site, and provide your feedback. If you have any ideas on things you would like to see on our website, please free feel to contact us, or provide your comments by clicking on the menu "Comments".

Your E-mail Address

Short lead-time information and last-minute changes are being informed to the members via e-mail. Eventually, we would like to send newsletters by e-mail. If you have not received any e-mail from us within last 4 months, then we do not have your correct email address. Please inform us of your email address by an email message to jsmw@mail.com.

Temple Open on Sundays

11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Chandubhai Sanghvi has kindly agreed to keep the Jain center open from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. every Sunday. If you wish to visit the temple at any other time, please call 301-236-4410 or 301-598-7464. If you wish to volunteer to keep the Jain Center regularly open on other times, please contact any member of the Executive Committee.

Poojas

Vastuk Pooja was performed at the new residence of Harshit & Hemangini Shah. Antaray Karma Pooja was held at the residence of Atul & Aruna Shah in memory of Atul's and his siblings' mother. Members are welcome to sponsor the performance of Snatra Pooja, Panch Kalyanak Pooja, Antaray Karma Pooja, Vastuk Pooja, etc. at the Jain Center or at member's house. If you wish to sponsor any Pooja, please contact Jyotiben Doshi at 301-670-6844.

Renting of Mandap, Sound System and Other Items

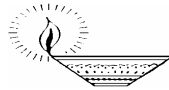
Members may rent the Sankheda Mandap and two chairs; sound system; and Dandiyas. Interested persons are requested to contact Ashok or Pallavi Shah at 301-260-1264.

Phones to Remember

Jain Sunday School ...	Kamlesh Shah	301-838-9778
Adult Classes	Pravin Dand	301-384-3367
	Rajni Gosalia	301-464-5947
	Atul Shah	301-274-0319
Pooja	Jyoti Doshi	301-670-6844
Equipment Rental	Ashok R. Shah	301-260-1264

Condolence

We regret to inform that our member Kantibhai Udani passed away on December 12, 2002. We pray that his soul rest in peace, and convey our hearty condolence to all members of his family.



We regret to inform that Mehul Vora "Big Man", son of Navin and Nirmala Vora passed away on January 2, 2003 at the young age of 20 years. We pray that his soul may rest may in peace, and convey our hearty condolence to all members of his family.

Donations

Thanks to all donors for their generous donations. A list of donors who have donated \$25 or more to our Jain Society is given below. If you have not yet paid up any of your Gheeboli/pledge, or wish to send a donation, please make your donation check payable to Jain Society, and mail it to our treasurer Mr. Manu J. Shah at 21009 Sunnycres Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20882-1249.

LIST OF DONORS (\$ 25 AND ABOVE)

OCTOBER 1, 2002 - FEBRUARY 10, 2003

Life Members

Parikh, Nilesh & Ruta	151
Shah, Mukesh & Javanika	151
Shah, Paresh & Shilpa	151

3-Year Member

Shah, Bhavesh & Chhaya	51
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Other Donations

Ambudkar, Suresh & Indu	151
Arwindekar, Amit	301
Arwindekar, Dilip & Aruna	501
Bhavsar, Himanshu & Bindu	25
Choxi, Subhash & Arti	25
Dand, Kekin & Preethi	1,527
Dharamsi. Manoj & Kanta	152
Khona, Sudhir & Dharini	1,592
Mehta, Arvind & Nayana	51
Mehta, Bhupendra & Kokila	51
Merchant, Deepak & Sunila	25
Sanghani, Kamal & Jyoti	351

Sanghvi, Vasantiben	101
Savla, Chhaya M	51
Savla, Maganlal & Sakarben	52
Shah, Ashok & Pallavi	351
Shah, Atul & Aruna	1,203
Shah, Harshit & Hemangini	251
Shah, Jigar & Archana	601
Shah, Minaxi	101
Vora, Manish & Nirmala	202
Zaveri, Paresh & Archana	51
United Way of Frederick County	91

Matching Fund For Community Work

Dalal, Shefali (Verizon)	500
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In Memory Of Late Shri Kantilal Udani

Udani, Sudhaben	501
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ADVERTISEMENT IN NEWSLETTER

We have decided to include advertisement in our newsletters to offset the printing and mailing cost. Charges for advertisement are \$150 for full page and \$100 for half page. Interested parties are requested to call Kanta Dharamsi at 703-620-9837

ADVERTISEMENT

KRISH GROUP PRESENTS

BEST OF ALASKA 2003 **CRUISE & LAND TOUR**

LIMITED BALCONY CABINS AVAILABLE
\$2350 per person on double occupancy
(includes port charges and taxes of \$222)

Departure August 1, 2003

Day	Port of Call	Arrive	Depart	Day	Port of Call	Arrive	Depart
Day 1	Vancouver, Canada		05:45 pm	Day 7	College Fjord, Alaska	05:00 pm	07:00 pm
Day 2	Cruise Inside Passage			Day 8	Seward, Alaska	07:00 am	11:30 am
Day 3	Ketchikan, Alaska	07:00 am	02:00 pm	Day 8	Fairbanks, Alaska	Overnight	
Day 4	Skagway, Alaska	10:00 am	08:00 pm	Day 9	Denali, Alaska	Overnight	
Day 5	Juneau, Alaska	07:00 am	10:00 pm	Day 10	Talkeetna, Alaska	Overnight	
Day 5	Hubbard Glacier, Alaska			Day 11	Anchorage, Alaska	Overnight	
Day 6	Valdez, Alaska	08:00 am	01:00 pm	Day 12	Anchorage, Alaska	Depart for home	

Land Tour Details

Day 8 SEWARD/ANCHORAGE/FAIRBANKS

Arrive in the quaint fishing village of Seward, where you will be greeted by your Tour director. Enjoy the scenic drive by deluxe motor-coach to the Anchorage airport for the flight to Fairbanks. Upon arrival, you'll recapture the frontier spirit of this gold-rush town with a City & Museum Tour. You'll stay overnight in Fairbanks.

Day 9 FAIRBANKS/DENALI

In the morning, you'll board the Riverboat Discovery sternwheeler, for a cruise along the Chenna and Tanna rivers. You'll stop at an Athabascan Indian Village, see a bush pilot demonstration and watch a sled dog team in action. Then travel by deluxe motor-coach to Denali for an overnight stay.

Day 10 DENALI/TALKEETNA

In the morning, you'll experience the Denali Natural History Tour in the six million acre Denali National park, one of the world's greatest wildlife sanctuaries. Be on the lookout for moose, caribou, Dall sheep and more. Then you'll travel by glass-dome train-car to the charming town of Talkeetna for an overnight stay. In the evening you can relax or take an optional land excursion.

Day 11 TALKEETNA/ANCHORAGE

The day is yours for exploration and optional land excursions, such as a float trip on the Talkeetna River through prime wildlife habitat. Enjoy spectacular scenery from the train-car on your way to Anchorage (overnight stay).

Day 12 ANCHORAGE/HOME

Organizer: Mr. Kantilal Gangar - 301-598-3093

For other departures
Call Ajitha Ratnam at 703-979-3088 or email ajitha.ratnam@verizon.net

Upcoming Events for 2003

Saturday, April 12: Mahavir Jayanti
Sunday, April 13: Ayambil
Sunday July 6 – Saturday July 12 Sunandaben Vohora
Saturday, August 2 – Wednesday, August 6:Nautambhai Vakil
Sunday, August 24 – Sunday August 31: Paryushan Parva
Saturday, August 30:Swapna Ceremony
Sunday, August 31: Samvatsari Pratikraman
Monday, September 1 – Wednesday, September 10:Das Lakshan Parva
Sunday, October 5: Ayambil
Sunday, October 26:Nav Smaran
Sunday, November 9:Diwali Program
Thursday, November 27: Thanksgiving Day Ayambil



JAIN

SOCIETY OF METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON

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Web address: www.jsmw.org

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SWAMI VATSALAY BHOJAN ON APRIL 12, 2003

Member's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No. _____ E-Mail Address: _____

No. of Persons (over age 5) attending the Swami Vatsalya Bhojan: _____

Check/Donation for \$ _____ Check no. _____ is enclosed

(Minimum donation should be \$6.00 per person over age 5)

Please make your check payable to Jain Society. **The check for donation must accompany the form.** The form and the check must be received before March 31, 2003. **Form without a donation check will not be treated as a request for participation in the dinner.**

If you wish to receive an acknowledgement of the receipt of your form, please send your request for acknowledgement by e-mail to jsmw@mail.com.

Please mail this form along with your check to the address given below or give it to any member of the Executive committee so that it reaches before the deadline of March 31, 2003. No refunds will be given for cancellation after March 31, 2003.

Manu J. Shah
Treasurer, JSMW
21009 Sunnyacres Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20882-1249