



# JAIN EDUCATION AND RESEARCH FOUNDATION

## Bhagwan Mahavir Professorship of Jain Studies

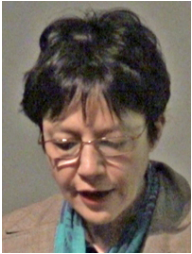
A JERF Newsletter

Issue No. 5 - November, 2013

*A perpetual center of Jain studies was established at Florida International University in April 2010. Since then, many successful Jain studies programs have been accomplished under this endowed professorship.*

### Third Annual Mahavir Jayanti Lecture at FIU

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Jainism makes presence at XXIII World Congress of Philosophy through Invited Table and contributed research presentations.

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## Third Annual Mahavir Jayanti Lecture at FIU

### Women's Role in the Jain Tradition Revisited by Prof. Nalini Balbir

Prof Nalini Balbir delivered the third Mahavir Jayanti Lecture on April 11, 2013 at the Florida International University.

Of Franco-Indian origin, Nalini Balbir is professor of Indology of University of Paris-3 Sorbonne Nouvelle and at Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes (Section Sciences Historiques et Philologiques), where she teaches Sanskrit, Middle-Indian languages and Hindi. Her fields of research are philological and contemporary aspects of Jainism, Theravada Buddhism, as well as Pali and Prakrit languages and literature. In recent



years, she has been engaged in cataloguing Jain manuscripts in various European countries. She is at present the chief editor of the Jainpedia website, an educational resource containing descriptions of digitized manuscripts and

a multi-handed encyclopedia of Jainism online.

Prof Balbir contends that Jainism is one of the major religious tradition of the world that ascribes rather prominent roles to women within it's own system. Based on

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original texts, contemporary observations and a growing number of studies in the last decade, Prof Balbir's lecture on "Women in Jain Traditions" explored the concept of gender at various levels within Jain practice and investigated the role of women in Jainism.

Prof Balbir noted that there are a strikingly high number of nuns in Jainism even though it is surrounded by a male dominated society. Women in Jainism have always been honored. Prof. Balbir mentioned several types of women figures, for example, the leaders in the society for providing food and that of a nun. Nuns out number the monks in Jainism, and they play significant role within the tradition. The tradition of Jainism has been progressive and the woman has been honored everywhere; even are seen equal as men. The women could be a nun or a lay woman. Nuns take the lead in guiding society and in spiritual counseling.

Jain nuns wear a white robe in both the Svetambara and the Digambara traditions. Nuns lead a life of chastity, where upon, ascetic life and femininity

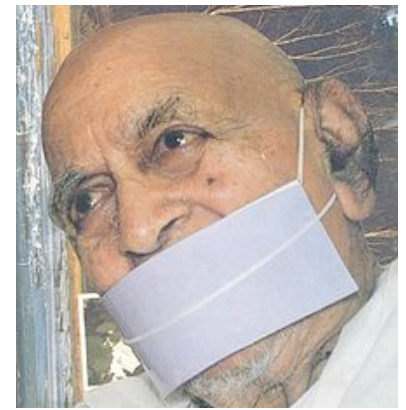


cannot occur together. There is a transcendence from sexuality and beauty to spirituality.

Women in Jainism are treated within the same code of ethics as that is prescribed for men, though certain regulations like traveling in groups etc. are geared towards security. The lay women are involved in stereotyped work like art, cooking, serving ascetics but by the same token they contribute to the sustenance of the culture and heritage.

**FIU to Commemorate Birth Centennial of Acharya Tulsi**

Acharya Tulsi (1914 - 1997) served for 59 years as supreme teacher of the Jain Svetambar Terapanth Order. He guided his order into the modern world, instituting the Anuvrat Movement dedicated to social uplift based on Jain tradition, innovated the practice of Preksha Meditation, and expanded women's role as spiritual teachers. He pioneered ordaining the saman and samani semi-renunciate orders.



The Jain Studies Program at Florida International University is convening an international seminar, "Acharya Tulsi and the Making of Modern Jainism," November 1-3, 2014, in the Graham Center Ballrooms of FIU in Miami.

Keynote speakers will be Professor Peter Flugel of SOAS-London and Dr. Dipak C. Jain of INSEAD-Paris. Confirmed invited speakers are Hampa Nagarajah, Manju Nahata, Shivani Bothra, Steven Vose, Manuel Gomez, and Christopher Chapple.

Organizers of the conference are Nathan Katz, Bhagawan Mahavir Professor of Jain Studies, and Steven Vose, Assistant Professor of Jain Studies at FIU, Samani Unnata Pragya and Samani Ramaniya Pragya of Jain Education and Research Foundation.

## JERF and FIU at JAINA Convention 2013



JAINA convention 2013 was a well suited platform to present Jain Education and Research Foundation (JERF) to the larger Jain community of America. Significant steps taken by JERF made a long lasting imprint in this event. A special session was organized by the Jain youths under the leadership of Dr Kirti Jain, JERF Director and Prof Dipak Jain, JERF Chairman to explore the means and mechanism on fostering a dialog between the different generation of Jains in North America. A Jain Discussion Group has been formed and a Facebook page has been created to advance the idea of such dialog.

### The Jain Studies Program of FIU was Represented at JAINA

Prof Steven Vose acted as a panellist in the Jain Education Panel on the theme: "Changing face of Jain Academic Education". Prof Vose discussed the Bhagwan Mahavir Jain Studies Program at FIU and presented the growth of Jain academic programs in higher education in the US and India. The panel included Dr. Philip Clayton, Dean of Claremont Lincoln University; Mehool Sangharajka of the Institute of Jainology (UK) and Jainpedia project; Shugan Jain of ISJS, and Dr. Neptune Srimal, President of JERF. Prof Vose gave a brief history of the Samanis' teaching at FIU and the creation of the Bhagwan Mahavir Professorship. He outlined the current graduate, undergraduate and certificate programs, emphasizing the growing number of courses including the recently-added Prakrit I & II and "Sacred Space, Sacred Image in India" to be offered in Spring 2014. He intimated that the Introduction to Jainism course is now being offered online and outlined plans for increasing the online course offerings over the next three years, notably "Women in Jainism" and "Jain Rituals and Practices" to be offered in the 2014-15. He discussed the unique partnership FIU has with JVBU in Ladnun that gives students

several options to study abroad to learn more about Jainism. Finally, he discussed the role of the JERF in the creation of the professorship, highlighting the funding it makes available to students for study abroad and graduate level studies through the professorship and the Rajiv & Latika Jain Fellowship.

In the session, Dr Neptune Srimal, President, JERF presented the work of JERF in the advancement of Jain Education and Jain Studies. Among his salient points was the Bhagwan Mahavir Professorship endowment established by JERF had a State of Florida matching and that the endowment income is now being used for the advancement of Jain studies. Through this program, more than 50,000 students can potentially be exposed to Jain teachings. Thousands of students have already taken courses with Jain content. Through two annual lecture series, both the local community as well as the academic communities are being exposed to Jain philosophy and practice. The Jain studies program at FIU is shaping up to become a prominent Center of Jain studies in the western hemisphere. He also emphasized how these programs spearheaded by JERF have brought the local Jain community and the academic community of FIU closer. According to him, this was one of the most successful Jain outreach program in the USA.

#### Exhibition

JERF showcased its activities at the convention booth, which was setup and run by dedicated volunteers including Samani Ramaniya Pragyaji, Samani Agam Pragyaji, JERF members and Prof. Steven Vose, by distributing brochures, flyers, newsletters and admission information for Jain courses being offered at FIU. The entire space was embellished with large easel mounted posters showing glimpses of JERF activity at FIU.

### Protecting Shatrunjay in Medieval India and Other Stories of Jain Heroism

On Saturday, July 6, Dr. Vose highlighted his research with JAINA attendees in a talk, "Protecting Shatrunjay in Medieval India and other stories of Jain Heroism." He began by explaining interaction between a Jain monk and a king by reviewing the close connection between Hiravijayasuri and Mughal Emperor Akbar that began a long period of cordial relationship between Jains and the Mughals. During two centuries of Mughal rule to follow, Jains were regularly granted edicts to protect Shatrunjay and other important Tirths. He then drew back nearly three centuries to the beginning of the fourteenth century, sharing his research into the earliest contacts between a Jain monk and a Muslim ruler by telling the story of the meetings between the Laghu Khartar Gacch Acharya Jinaprabhasuri (1261-1333 CE) and Sultan of Delhi Muhammad bin Tughluq (r. 1325-1351). This relationship is known through Jinaprabhasuri's two short memoirs included in his Vividh-Trith-Kalpa, 'In Praise of Various Tirthas.' Prof. Vose shared that Jinaprabhasuri went to the Sultan's court in Delhi after having been recommended to the sultan for his wisdom and learning. Arriving in the court, he impressed the sultan with his poetry and won him over by emerging victorious in debate with other religious adepts. This began a five-year period in which the Sultan and the Suri would have a close relationship that brought numerous benefits to the Jain community. Among them, Muhammad bin Tughluq established a quarter in Delhi for Jain families complete with a new Upashray and temple to house an image of Mahavir that he returned to the community upon Jinaprabha's request. He also issued edicts protecting Shatrunjay and other Tirthas, and allowed pilgrimages to Shatrunjay from as far away as

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### The Annual Mahavir Jayanti Lecture

*Mahavir Jayanti Annual Lecture series organized by Bhagwan Mahavir Professorship of Jain Studies*

Highly-respected scholar of Jainism, Dr. Dundas has spent his professional life at Edinburgh University in Scotland, where he has been Reader in Sanskrit since 2004.



His talk will explore the use of allegory as an imaginative and didactic mode in the Sanskrit and Prakrit writings of the Svetambara monk Hemachandra Maladharin.

**When:** April 09, 2014, 6PM - 9PM

**Topic:** "An Interior Kingdom: Jain Allegorical Narratives in the Twelfth Century"

**Where:** FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus, Graham Center Ballroom, FIU, Miami, USA

**Sponsored by:** Bhagwan Mahavir Professorship and Jain Education and Research Foundation

**Contact:** [prekshafiu@gmail.com](mailto:prekshafiu@gmail.com)



### Training Program for Teachers

Implement meditation tips in class room environment. Educate and train teachers to foster a lessons in 'How to Live' as an icebreaker or break-time activity.

**When:** Nov 05, 2013. 7:00PM - 8:30PM

**Where:** PC424, FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus, FIU, Miami, USA

**Cost:** Free. Veg refreshments served.

**Contact:** [prekshafiu@gmail.com](mailto:prekshafiu@gmail.com)

Delhi to proceed tax-free. This special relationship would even help Jains to articulate for the first time the importance of Shatrunjay, as Jinaprabha's chapter on it is the first major work to place it first among all the Jain tirthas in India; the monk dedicated his Shatrunjay-Kalpa to the sultan.

The relationship between Jinaprabhasuri and Muhammad bin Tughluq would resonate over the centuries as Jain monks continued to be key members of the Sultanate courts for the remainder of the 14th century, including Mahendrasuri, who composed the first Sanskrit treatise on the astrolabe at the request of Firuz Shah Tughluq. Even Tapa Gacch



monks would remember Jinaprabhasuri's story, retelling it a number of times throughout the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries; it even became the model upon which Hiravijaysuri's successful relationship with Akbar would be based. Vose's talk was well attended and led to a lively question-and-answer session that drew interest from many young Jains who stayed to talk with him and learn more about the FIU Jain Studies Program.

## Anuvrat Movement for Youth

Samani Unnata Pragma introduced Anuvrat Movement launched by Acharya Tulsi in 1949 to the present day youths. Anuvrats are a set of eleven vows of moral reformation that Acharya Tulsi spread to far corners of India. The aims of practicing these small vows are to make people mindful of living with less violence; to change their behavior; and to observe compassion and tolerances for others as much as possible. In a special session devoted to the Anuvrat, Samani Unnata Pragma, introduced young attendees to this movement and engaged them into a lively dialog and discussion. The young participants picked up their own vow among the eleven vows and presented a justification for their choice. They also came up with their analysis

of how these vows help make the society a better place.

## A Talk on Jain Universe and Philosophy of Nonviolence

Dr Samani Chaitanya Pragma delivered a talk on Jain Concept of Universe. Samani Chaitanya Pragma juxtaposed the ideas of classical Jain texts with the modern studies on the nature of the universe which was both intriguing and informative.

Samani Chaitanya Pragma also presented on the topic, "Implication of Jain Principle of Nonviolence". Her talk focussed mainly on the practice of nonviolence in day to day life. She explained that according to Jain principle, lives in subtle beings like water, air, fire, vegetation, etc. hold important place in the ecology. She emphasized the need for further discussion and understanding on the application of Jain doctrines to seek the solution to problems such as degradation of ecology and the environment and wars which deprives peaceful coexistence of all living beings.

## JERF at IRCC Diwali

JERF had a very popular presence in this year's Diwali event in South Florida organized by the Indian Regional and Cultural Center (IRCC), attended by several thousand visitors. The JERF stall along with the Florida International University stall highlighted the activities of the Jain Studies Program at FIU.

The JERF stall contained many of the JERF



newsletters and publications as well as DVDs of Jain songs and hymns, on Yoga and meditation and also one containing Acharya Tulsi's sermons. The stall was embellished with large colorful posters highlighting the activities of JERF.

# Acharya Tulsi Centennial Celebration at JAINA Convention

As part of the centenary celebration of the renowned and visionary Jain Acharya Tulsi (1914-1997), two special sessions on were held at 2013 Jaina convention. Life and contribution of Acharya Tulsi to the empowerment and wellbeing of Jain community and of the human race was discussed by the Samanijis.

A 20 feet long scroll painting depicting the biography and heritage of Acharya Tulsi was displayed at the main entrance hall of the exhibition. Posters of Acharya Tulsi were displayed prominently. The stall displays included volumes of autobiography of Acharya Tulsi and more than 125 books authored by him. DVDs of Acharya Tulsi's sermons as well as digital copies of his publications were handed out to the visitors.



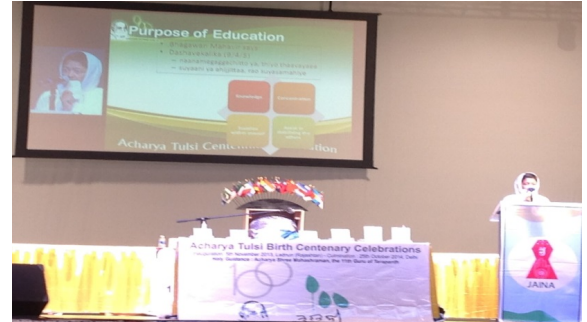
## A Tribute to Acharya Tulsi

Samani Charitra Pragma, vice chancellor, Jain Vishva Bharati Institute, Landnun, India was the keynote speaker of the special session devoted to Acharya Tulsi's life and work. The event started with an English version of Anuvrat song, a resonating composition of Acharya Tulsi, followed by a lively documentary, "A Glimpse of a Legacy of a Legend: Acharya Tulsi". In her keynote address, Samani Charitra Pragma gave an overview of the life and contributions of Acharya Tulsi and discussed the humanitarian approach, the revolutionary steps, the inexhaustible compassion, courageous ventures and the extraordinary contributions of Acharya Tulsi. Mr. Prem Jain, President, JAINA, following her speech remarked the unprecedented visionary effort of Acharya Tulsi by initiating Saman order and its far reaching effect on the spread of Jain teachings outside India.

Dr. Dipak C. Jain, ex-Dean, INSEAD and Chairman, Jain Education and Research Foundation recalled his only meeting with Acharya Mahapragya and the insight and inspiration he received at that meeting for the formation of Wisdom World, a university centre for application of Jain teachings in the modern world. The audience stood in silence for a minute as a mark of respect to the holy soul.

## Acharya Tulsi's Contribution in Jain Education

As part of Acharya Tulsi's Birth Centennial Celebration, a special session was held on Jul 5th, where Samani Unnata Pragma, faculty, FIU presented on "The Contribution of Acharya Tulsi in the field of Jain Education" which can briefly be summarized as follows:



### Empowerment Program in Education

- Naya mod program was launched to redirect the women folks and equip them to keep pace with evolving modern and post-modern world.
- Establishment of Parmarthik Shikshan Sanstha, to educate the aspirants of Jain ascetic life.
- Education to nuns in India 70 years back was a revolutionary step.

### Creative Program in Education

- Establishment of Saman Order, to spread the Jain values and culture across the world.
- Establishment of Jain Vishva Bharati a philanthropic institute and an academic centre to serve humanity through Jain values.
- Giving shape to Jain Vishva Bharati Institute, a unique and the only then existing university focussed to teach Jainism and ancient heritage through academic platform. This serves hundreds of ascetics with honorary services.

### Traditional Programs in Education

- Editing and Translation with annotations of Jain Agamas containing references of almost all commentary literatures.

### Reformative Program in Education

- Science of Living: An education program presenting the value education beyond the boundaries of religion on academic platform. It is designed with the orientation of theory with training programs, which stood as a successful venture in Indian Academia.

Acharya Tulsi spearheaded a unique and successful initiative in the Indian academia. This program incorporated an orientation and a training program on the application of the values outside of narrow religious constraints.

## JERF and FIU at XXIII World Congress of Philosophy, Athens



World Congress of Philosophy is the largest conference of philosophy, held once every five years. In the XXIII WCP which was held in Athens, Greece from August 4 -10, 2013. The Jain presence was felt due to the efforts from Jain Vishva Bharati Institute, Ladnun, India, in collaboration with Florida International University, USA and Jain Education Research Foundation, USA. They held an invited session on “Jain Philosophy of Anekānta: A Panacea to the Problems of the Present Day World” and a Round Table on “Jain View towards Philosophical Inquiry and Harmonious Ways of Living” as well as contributed research presentations by Dr Nirmal Baid and Shivani Bothra.



Prof. Samani Chaitanya Prajna and Samani Rohit Prajna were the coordinators of the invited session on Anekant. Eminent scholars from diverse fields were invited as speakers with an interdisciplinary approach to analyze problems of the present day world. Among the speakers were Prof. Narendra Bhandari, Space Scientist, Indian National Science Academy, Prof. Dipak Jain, Former Dean, INSEAD, Prof. Kusum Jain, Dean of Arts, University of Rajasthan, Prof. Jaffery D. Long, Elizabethtown College, USA, Prof. Samani Chaitanya Prajna and Samani Rohit Prajna, Jain Vishva Bharati Institute, India.

The session was presided by Prof. William McBride, President of FISP, who expressed his view about the Jain philosophy and its



contribution to develop a harmonious and peaceful way of living. Prof. Dipak Jain was Chair of the session.

In the session, Prof. Narendra Bhandari spoke on “Scientific Foundation of Anekant: The Philosophy of Multifacetedness of Nature”. Prof. Kusum Jain presented a talk on “Anekant: A Befitting Response to Religious Fundamentalism”. Paper on “Anekant as a Metaphysical Foundation of Religious Pluralism” written by Prof. Jeffery D. Long was read by Dr Nirmal Baid, USA. Prof. Samani Chaitanya Prajna presented her views on “Anekant: A Philosophy of Non-absolutism and Peaceful Co-existence”.

Theme of the round table was “Jain View towards Philosophical Inquiry and Harmonious Ways of Living”. Prof. Samani Chaitanya Prajna chaired the session, and talks on Jain approach to living in harmony were presented by Prof. Narendra Bhandari, Prof. Dipak Jain, Prof. Kusum Jain, and Asst. Prof. Samani Rohit Prajna.

Prof. Dipak Jain summarized the views of speakers and threw light on having moral and ethical life by accepting the principle of nonviolence, non-possessiveness and non-absolutism. At the end of the roundtable, a document of declaration, signed by all the speakers was read and presented by Prof. William McBride, the President of FISP.



Dr. Nirmal Baid made his research presentation in the Environmental Philosophy track on Aug 5, 2013 on “Jain Acceptance of Life in Nonhuman Entities as a Basis for Environmental Ethics”. The goal was to raise the question of moral consequences of harming the environment and present Jain view of equality among all life forms.

A talk was delivered by Shivani Bothra in the Student Session. Her topic was “The Anuvrat Movement: Social Implication of a Philosophical Action”. The purpose of her paper was to examine and analyze the effectiveness of the modified Anuvrat vows, which formed the core of the Anuvrat Movement.

This program was supported by JVB, Bhagwan Mahavir Professorship, FIU, JERF, Sashi-Kusum Baid, Lalit-Gunamala Mehta, Miami and Kirit Shah, West Palm Beach.

## Jain Studies and Research

### Preksha Meditation at Neuroscience Conference at San Diego

Preksha meditation research presentation will be made at Neuroscience Conference held in San Diego on November 8 - 14, 2013. The effect of meditation in cognitive and breathing functions have been studied by Samani Unnata Pragma and her team for past two years. The study has been enriched by incorporating effective tools of assessment. EEG technology, which is now a part of the assessment, shows theta wave patterns in preksha meditation state. Laura Anderson and Gabriela Ramon, students of bioengineering will present on behalf of the team. The conference is funded by SGA and Bhagawan Mahavir Professorship of Jain Studies.

### Radio Talk: Let the World Celebrate Festival of Forgiveness

Rev. Johanna and Lori Cardoba organized radio talk of Samani Unnata Pragma on blog talk radio show. On Aug 07, 2013, Samani Unnata Pragma presented a brief on Jain perspective of peace. She shared that Jains believe in seeking the God within, and peace is but an attribute of Soul, an intrinsic fabric of the self.

The world goes through the problem of violence for the reason of lack of self control over our emotions. History has had a lot of bloodshed just in the name of religion itself. The underlying problem is that we lack the ability to control emotions and regulate them. We get regulated by them and that is where we need to make a change. Acharya Tusli gave a watch word, "Self Restraint is Life", in 1949 when he started the Anuvrat movement, an initiative of awakening moral consciousness. "Small resolutions can help bring a change", was his way of change. Samaniji concluded her speech with the mention of festival of forgiveness (Kshamapana which Jains celebrate for peace and harmony. Rev. Johanna, requested the audience to participate in forgiveness festival for a better world. The organizers were fascinated by the rich contribution of the Jain tradition towards world peace.

### First Generation Scholarship Fund established at Florida International University

Designed to bring a university education within reach, the First Generation Scholarship Fund of the Florida International University provides support to qualified undergraduate students who are the first generation in their families to attain college degree.

The First generation Scholarship is the foremost scholarship program in the university that brings hopes and opportunity for the needy. In keeping with the spirit of the scholarship, JERF donor and member, Rajiv and Latika Jain has pledged a gift of \$300,000 which with the state matching will become \$600,000 and will provide scholarship to more than a thousand students for their undergraduate studies. While discussing the gift, Rajiv commented that advanced education is a life changing event for anybody and he is very happy to be able to partner with FIU in opening up the doors to a better life for so many first generation students. Our thanks and admiration to Rajiv and Latika Jain for their continuing philanthropy for making the world a better place for all.

JERF director Sapan Bafna has also pledged a gift to support four first generation students through their undergraduate studies.

### Jain Virtues for Global Peace

Prof Sanusri Bhattacharya, a noted Jain scholar and a visiting Fulbright fellow, paid a visit to FIU. During her short stay at FIU, Prof Bhattacharya met with Samanijis, with Profs Nathan Katz and Steven Vose, and with other faculty of the Dept of Religious Studies. She gave a lecture to the students of Jainism class at FIU. A brief summary of Prof Bhattacharya's lecture follows:



The goal of scientific and technological discoveries needs to promote global well being. Rather than wishing narrow and immediate material benefit, one should strive for equality and peace. Prof Bhattacharya outlined many ideas on how the society and globalization has influenced our world. She outlined nine universal principles to solve world unrest.

- To adhere to the principles of nonviolence, abolish the four passions of anger, pride, deceitfulness, and discontent.
- Changing the system of education, in order for change we need to improve from the beginning of our lives.
- Implementing justice, equity and good conduct in the system of governance.
- Change in the goal of scientific experiments and discoveries.
- Significance of focusing on universal fraternity instead of national solidarity.

### JERF and FIU Welcomes Samani Ramaniya Pragma

Samani Ramaniya Pragma joined FIU as Adjunct Faculty in August 2013. Samani Ramaniya Pragma received her initiation from His Holiness Acharya Mahapragya Ji in 2003, has her Masters in Jainism and Science of Living. Her doctoral thesis researched a rare and lively subject of "Concept of Dream Symbolism in Jainism and Freudian Theory". She has been teaching for over 10 years at JVBI as an Assistant Professor.



Well versed in Sanskrit and Prakrit languages and Jain philosophy, Samaniji is engaged in translation of sacred texts to Sanskrit language. She has also translated books in English of which, "Philosophy in Jain Agam", is under publication. She has travelled to many countries for conferences and presentation including, USA, UK, Singapore, Indonesia, Bangladesh, UAE.

We extend a warm welcome to Samaniji and wish her every success.

## Community Outreach

### Spiritual Awakening: A Call of Paryushan

Year 2013 was a banner year for the Jain Center of South Florida in regards to Paryushana celebration. Jain community in South Florida celebrated Paryushana under spiritual guidance of Samanijis. Samani Unnata Pragyaji and Samani Ramaniya Pragyaji provided spiritual leadership in help carrying the Jain community to a new spiritual plateau.

Samani Ramaniya Pragyaji conducted morning swadhyaya of Uvasaggahar stotra and Samani Unnata Pragyaji that of Kalpasutra. The evening discourses were on Uttarahyayan sutra and levels of existence. For all eight days of Paryushana, adults and kids observed various austerities like Upvas, Ekasana, Besana, Samayik, Swadhyay, Pratikraman, Maun, Jaap. Bands as a reminder of divine consciousness were gifted to all.

Samaniji had designated each Paryushana day for special spiritual attainment — Sāmāyik: Practice equanimity, Swadhyaya: Read scriptures, Khadya saynam: Practice fasting, Maun: Practice Silence, Anuvrat: Practice some resolution, Jaap: Practice chanting, Dhyān: Practice Meditation, Kshama: Practice Forgiveness.



For the first time in the Jain Center's history, the community participated in Akhand Navakar Mahamantra Jaap from sunrise to sunset. Mahavir Jayanti was celebrated with fanfare of Swapana Darshan, a skit by kids and a discourse on Bhagavan Mahavir by Samani Unnata Pragyaji followed by swapana analysis by Samani Ramaniya Pragyaji.

On the Samvatsari day, shravaks performed Poshadh Tap aradhana beginning at sunrise. The entire day was filled with various spiritual activities. Samaniji delivered a very fitting kshamanpana message. Kids and young adults participated in English Samvatsari pratikaman which was conducted and explained by Samaniji.

A successful Paryushana parva was concluded with Kshamanpana blessings for all.

### FIU Students and Administrators Visit Jain Temple

Samaniji convened a Jain temple site visit for students from the Florida International University. A large delegate of students visited the Jain Center at South Florida on the auspicious Diwali day on Nov 3. Prof Nathan Katz, Bhagwan Mahavir Professor of Jain Studies, Mr David Skipp, Asst director Development and Prof Shlomi Dinar, Asst director, School of International and Public Affairs, also accompanied the students. Dr Deepika Dalal, Director JAINA and Mr Bindesh



Shah, Vice President, JERF gave a guided tour of the temple and explained broad principles of Jain faith and rituals to the students. There was a short mantra session of Bhagawan Mahavir by the community which reflected the spiritual endeavor of Jains, followed by Samaniji's lecture. Samani Ramaniya Pragyaji's lectured on 'Tathastu' and Samani Unnata Pragyaji on 'Diwali a festival of light or darkness'. Listening to the lectures, the students said, "We really felt comfortable with the message and the inspiration for spiritual upliftment". The students later joined the community lunch at the temple. A strong bond has been built between the academics and the local Jain community through the interactions facilitated by FIU, JERF and Jain Center of South Florida (JCSF).

### November 4th Event Donors

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 Neptune & Sangita Srimal  
 Prakash & Madhu Nahata  
 Sachin And Puja Bordia  
 Sapan & Gitika Bafna  
 Vijay & Smita Shah