HISTORY OF JAIN SOCIETY OF RICHMOND VIRGINIA

Around mid-1960s, the first wave of Jain immigrants came from India to the beautiful state of Virginia. In order to preserve and maintain their religions and cultural heritage, these early migrants started to meet informally in 80s and 90s in their homes and community halls. Jain culture and spiritual (dharma) events were happening via monthly bhavana, celebration of Mahavir Jannam Kalyanak or doing pratikramana together.

JAIN SANGH ESTABLISHMENT

This small group of Jain families felt the need to start “Sangh”. In 1989, five families came together to form Jain Society of Richmond with the blessings of Lord Mahavir. Sangh senior members joined hands with local Hindu community to put Bhagwan Mahavir’s Murti in the newly established Hindu temple.

From that day onwards, Jain families celebrate Mahavir Jannam kalyanak and other events at the Hindu temple along with all other communities in Richmond. In past two decades, Jain Sangh went on several Chaitra Paripath/Jatra to visit other Jain Temples in North America. Jain community came together on occasions like snatra puja, bhavana, Jain picnic and continued to grow stronger. In early 2010, Jain Pathshala started in a house and gave opportunity for our young/youths to learn about Jainism. Over past 2-decades, Jain Sangh grew to fifty families and in 1998 decided to have monthly bhavana and celebrate paryushan parva by inviting Puja Shri Manakmuniji in 2006. Since this year, sanghwas fortunate to have learned Jain scholar for paryushan every year. In 2010, Jain Society got an opportunity to have a separate Gambhara with 3 Murtis in newly constructed Richmond Hindu temple (Munayak, Mahaveer Bhagwan, Adeshwara Bhagwan and Digambar Parswanath).

FOUNDATION OF NEW JAIN TEMPLE
“OUR DREAM CAME TRUE”

Over the past decade, sangh grew to over 100 families. In the year 2015-16, Puja Shri Manahak Muniji gave inspiration and blessing to build a new Shankeshwara Parshwanath Temple. Sangh laid foundation stone and performed bhoomi pujan in 2017 for a beautiful temple with Anjansalakamurtis of Shree Munayak- Shri Shankeshwara Parshwanath, along with Mahaveer Bhagwan and Rishbhadev Bhagwan. The gambhara is surrounded by 24 Tirthankar Murtis, Gautam Swami, Simandhar swami and sasan Devis and Devis. The Shrimad Rajshandra Meditation Hall has facilities for Sanyak, Pratikraman, Bhakti & Sadhana. This temple includes two pathshala rooms along with beautiful rang mandap, hall, kitchen and kesar room.

This Jain Temple located on 9-95 and going to be a ‘Shankeshwar tirth’ of North America - a shining symbol of Peace, Non-violence and Anekantvaad and place of worship for thousands of Jains throughout the USA for generations to come.
Jeth Sud 10

June 2019
Wednesday

Dinner
6 to 7:30 PM

Pratishtha Opening Ceremony
And Bhakti Bhavna
7:30 PM – 10:00 PM

Jeth Sud 11

June 2019
Thursday

Navkarsi
7:30 – 9 AM

Morning Puja
9:30 AM

Lunch
11:30 AM

Afternoon Puja
2 PM

Dinner
6 PM

Bhakti Bhavna
7:30 PM

- MORNING PUJA -
Kumbh Staphna, Akahand Deepak Staphna, Jvararopan, Shetrapal Pujan, Maniksthambh, Toran

- AFTERNOON PUJA -
Laghunandavart Pujan, Navgrah Pujan, Das Dikpal Pujan, Astamangal Pujan Gabhara Pravas
**Jeth Sud 12**

14 June 2019

- **Navkarsi**
  7:30 – 9 AM

- **18 Abhishesk**
  9:00 AM

- **Lunch**
  12:00 PM

- **Vargoda - Procession**
  4 PM – 6 PM

- **Dinner**
  6 PM

- **Bhakti Bhavna**
  7:30 PM

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**Jeth Sud 13**

15 June 2019

- **Navkarsi**
  7:30 – 9 AM

- **Pratishtha**
  10:00 AM

- **Lunch**
  12:00 PM

- **Shanti Sanatra**
  2:00 PM

- **Dinner**
  6 PM

- **Kumarpal Aarti & Bhavna**
  7:30 PM
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dhwar Opening</td>
<td>7 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navkarsi</td>
<td>8:30 – 9.30 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Bhedi Puja</td>
<td>10 AM - 12 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
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</tbody>
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For more Information contact:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Navin Sheth</td>
<td>804-357-9133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niketan Mehta</td>
<td>757-556-0707</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunil Mehta</td>
<td>757-621-8243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanjay Gandhi</td>
<td>804-721-4544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bharat Shah</td>
<td>609-240-1301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chandresh Benani</td>
<td>504-287-6734</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vidhikarak
Shri Hitesh Bhai Shah

Sangeetkar
Shri Amit Bhai Shah
Father: King Ashvasen
Mother: Queen Yamadevi
Chyvan Kalyanak: Chaitra Vad 4
Birth Place: Varanasi Nagri
Varna: Neel (blue)
Height: 9 Hath
Lanchhan (Symbol): Snack
Janam Kalyanak: Posh Vad 10
Diksha Kalyanak: Posh Vad 11

Diksha Place: Varanasi Nagri
Kevalgyan Kalyanak: Chaitra Vad 4
Kevalgyan Place: Varanasi Nagri
Kevalgyan Tree: Banyan Tree
No. of Gadharam: 10
No. of Sadhus: 16,000
No. of Sadhvis: 38,000
No. of Shravak: 1,64,000

No. of Shravikas: 3,77,000
First Shishay: Shubh Dutta
First Shishayaa: Pushpchula
Nirvan Kalyanak: Shravan Sud 8
Nirvan Place: Sametshikhar
Life Span: 100 years
Yaksha: Dharmendra
Yakshini: Padmawati

Guidance And Divine Blessings

Pujaya Acharya
Shree Rajyash Surishwarji Maharashab
Pujaya Acharya
Shree Hemvallabhsuri Maharaj
Shri Manak Muniji