

## **Jain Digest Sections**

### **1) Information**

With 75+ Jain Centers in North America and over 100,000 members there is a need to exchange information so that each center can efficiently address the challenges they face. There is a wide variety of topics such as fund raising, attracting younger people to Jain Centers, inviting good speakers and artists, arranging a wide variety of workshops, encouraging people to volunteer, networking with other non-Jain organizations, etc. In this section we will publish good, proven practices in these areas. Any important timely announcements also will be included in this section.

### **2) Education**

The purpose of this section is twofold. One is to provide information about Pathshala education across North America related to innovative ways of teaching and getting students engaged in learning about Jain Religion. The second is to provide well researched articles about Jain values, principles and philosophy; similar to the articles we had published in past few issues of Jain Digest. Over past 4 years we have mainly focused on this type of articles and our readers have given us good feedback on it. Hence we will continue this effort.

### **3) Devotion**

In this section, we will have articles about the various forms in which we express our reverence, love and gratitude for God. Prayers, Puja, Darshan, Stavan, and Sutra are all part of a daily life of an aspirant. Understanding the purpose and meaning of these daily rites is crucial in order to develop faith and make our practices full of devotion and sentiment. Our goal for this section of the magazine is to provide articles that explain the meanings of various pujas, stavans, sutras and other rituals. In addition, we plan to include information about past and present Jain Acharyas.

### **4) Compassion**

Of the three basic principles of Jainism – Ahimsa, Anekantvad and Aparigraha – ahimsa is the most well recognized Jain principle in the whole world. At the root of ahimsa is compassion; compassion not just for the fellow human beings but also for the smallest of creatures and plants. In this section, we will have information about compassionate activities done by various Jain Centers as well as charitable organizations across the World.

### **5) Inspiration**

We may learn a lot about the values that Jains believe in by taking part in many educational activities. But the emotion of feeling “inspired” comes from hearing or reading stories that involve people that have focused on these values. It is our surrounding community and the “good” they do for others that compels us to feel inspired. In this section we will feature stories from all over the world - stories that involve people who are helping others, engaging in social entrepreneurship, solving world problems, and living a lifestyle where giving their time and energy to others is their main goal in life.

### **6) Transformation**

Learning about Jainism, its teachings, values, and ideals is certainly a good thing. But the real transformation can happen only if we practice what we have learned, if we make it a way of life. As the ancient Chinese philosopher Lao-tzu has said, “A journey of a 1000 miles starts with one small step”. In this section, we will include articles that will explore these small steps. The articles about nutritional Vegan recipes, optimism, gratitude, generosity, short meditations, introspection, and many such topics will nurture body, mind & soul and will help the readers march ahead in their spiritual journey.

### **7) Young Generation**

This section is about our most treasured asset – our children. It is *for* them, *about* them and in some cases, *written by* them. It will contain Jain stories, games and puzzles, humor, art contests and articles written by students on various topics. It will also contain articles written by YJA and YJP members.

### **8) Conversation**

In the sections listed above, some of the information is best captured by interviewing people. Such interviews will be published in this section. This section can also be used for answering reader’s questions on various topics.