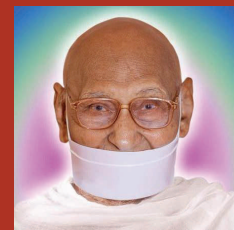




Ahimsa is Protector

# Timeless Wisdom...

JVB Preksha Meditation Center Houston



Search Truth Yourself

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2008



Akshay Pragyaaji



Vinay Pragyaaji

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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(Camp and Work-shop)

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(Rasayanshala{Food})

Hemant Bhavsar  
(Cultural Program)

## Inspirational Play – Mahasati Anjana - Raises Over \$100,000 for the Center's Building Project

STAFFORD - JVB Preksha Meditation Center's "Mahasati Anjana", a play that depicts the life of the mother of Veer Hanuman was superbly performed at the Stafford Civic Center on January 12 and 13 in front of sold out audiences. More than 1400 people attended the play which was inspired by Samani Akshay Pragyaaji and Vinay Pragyaaji, and masterfully directed by Mr. Hemant Bhavsar and Mr. Ashok Patel.

According to Swatantra Jain, Chairman JVB Preksha Center Houston, the event raised over \$100,000 to help support funds for the JVB Preksha Center Building Project.

The new center will be located on Schiller Road just past Arya Samaj and before Durga Bari society. "The uniqueness of the project is its pyramid shape meditation hall of about 3900 sq. ft. The construction is expected to begin in March of this year, and is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year," Jain said.

Earlier, Alok Jain, Director, and past president JVB, and Master of Ceremony welcoming the audience said that the JVB Preksha Center was a part of the JVB organization in India with H.H. Acharya Mahapragyaaji as its visionary, charismatic, and dynamic leader.

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Inspirational Play Mahasati Anjana Raises Over \$100,000 for the Center's Building Project

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### Contact Us

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## Mark Your Calendar for Annual Family Camp From March 21st to 23rd at the Gordon Ranch in Richmond, Texas





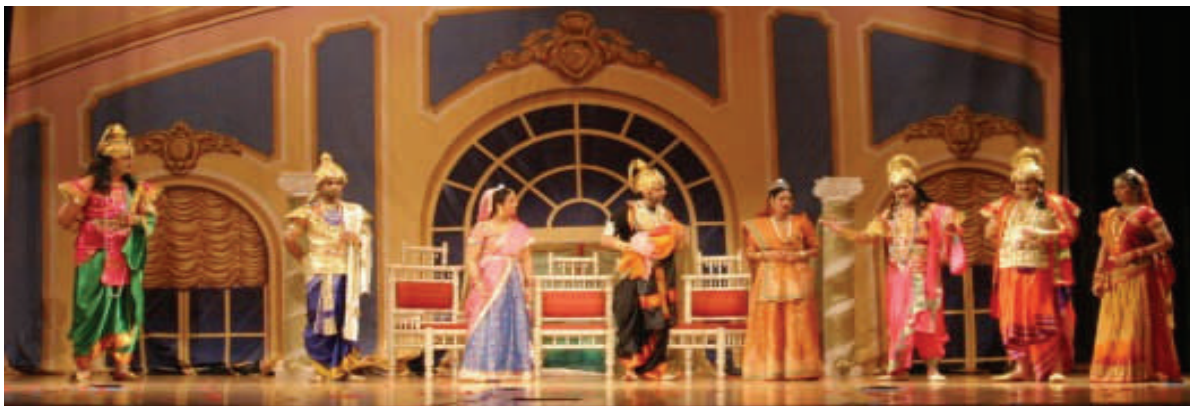
“With Acharya Shree’s blessings, we have respected Samani Akshay Pragyaji and Vinay



Pragyaji resident here and our purpose is to help and guide the Houston community in achieving inner peace and happiness,” Jain said. Inviting the Chairman, Jain mentioned that Swatantra Bhai and Dr. Sulekh Jain were instrumental in starting the JVB Houston branch some 8 years ago.

The play began with Namokar Mahamantra rendered by most revered Samani Akshay Pragyaji and Vinay Pragyaji.

The cast and crew of the play, which took close to six months of preparation, comprised of nearly 40 volunteers whose invaluable time and dedication made the play a spectacular and unforgettable event for Houston. The play was brilliantly enacted with powerful dialogue delivery by the actors considering the fact that most of them were first timers and amateurs. Elaborate and regal costumes added authenticity while the classical dance performances, lighting and sound, created an entertaining atmosphere to a very appreciative audience. Speaking about the JVB Preksha Center, Swatantra Jain said that the Center was devoted to providing education and training in the practice of non-violence, stress management, yoga, meditation, and much more. Swatantra Jain recognized the contribution of Raj and Jugal Malani, a noted philanthropist, and CEO Unique Industries, who has committed \$100,000 for the building project. Jain received a check for \$50,000 from Mr. and Mrs. Malani and urged the community members to support the JVB Preksha Center Building Project generously.





## Tidbits

### The Problem Solving Mantra

“om hrim shrin arham chandreprabhava namah”

- Chant everyday 1 rosary (108 times) .
- Benefit: To acquire a forceful personality.

### Test your knowledge about Jain religion

The answers of last month's questions are as follows:

Q1. What is Ayushya Karma?

**Answer:** Ayushya Karma decides the life span in the life.

Q2. When is the life & place of next birth decided?

**Answer:** At the last year of the present life, next birth is decided.

Q3. Can one change the place of next birth once it is decided?

**Answer:** The place of next birth cannot be changed once it is fixed. But good deeds can reduce the pain, and increase the pleasure.

### **Questions for this month are:**

1. What is Nama (body determining) Karma?
2. Which Karma determines the status?
3. What obstructs good status?

### Voice of the Omniscient

**Dhammo mangalamukkittham ahimsa samjamo tavo  
Deva vi tam namamsanti jassa dhamme saya mano**

Religion is the supreme auspicious. Non-violence, self restraint and penance are its characteristics. One who remains always absorbed in religion even the gods bow down before him

*(Abstract From Jain Agamas)*

### Calendar of Events:

- ◆ Please note that Samanijis are currently visiting H.H. Acharya Mahapragyaji in India, and will return on March 05th.
- ◆ Saturday 09:00 to 10.30 AM.: Yoga and meditation for General Health & Mental Peace.
- ◆ Sunday
- 1. (1st and 3rd) 10:00 to 12:15 AM : Gyanshala for Children.

### Notes: **Mark your calendars for the following**

March 21st to 23rd, 2008 “Annual Family Camp” at the “Gordon Ranch”

### Thoughts:

Is ambition good or bad? We have to find an answer to this question.

Without ambition, no big or good achievement is possible. So how can it be called a bad thing?

Ambition gives rise to struggle. To fulfill one's ambition man even tries to put down another, then how can it be considered good?

The answer is - Good and bad can only be relative term. Relativity means knowing the limits. Ambition within limit is good, and outside the limit is bad.







Ila Patel, vice president JVB Houston, sponsored Samani Punya Pragya's Bhajan CD and



presented the first CD to Samanijis on the occasion. Giving a brief synopsis of the play, Samani Akshay Pragyaaji explained, according to the Indian culture, Lord Hanuman is worshiped for his loyalty, devotion, bravery and celibacy. But only a few people knew that the source of all these qualities was his mother, Anjana, who in spite of being a princess struggled very hard in bringing up Lord Hanuman. In Jain tradition, Anjana is glorified as "Mahasati", Supreme Be-

ing. Mahasati Anjana is an amalgamation of optimism and struggle of a woman. The play narrates the determination in which she fights against all odds in her life, and still preserves the dignity of moral character. Following the narration, the Samanijis asked the audience to sit straight, fold their hands with eyes closed, and recited Namokar Mahamantra. In the second half of the program, Hasmukh Patel, President of the center, spoke about Preksha Center and its activities. Dr Sulekh Jain, the first President of JVB and founding member, honored Ashok Patel, while Mr. Jugal Malani, Director of JVB, honored Hemant Bhavsar for the excellent direction that both of them provided for the play, with gifts as a token of appreciation for their invaluable time and contributions to the Preksha Center.



- Swatantra and Manish Jain

