



## President's Desk

Jai Jinendra and greetings to all!

It's hard to believe that a year of this EC term is almost coming to an end. Another year at JCOCO has gone by with many memories to cherish and remember. From experiencing spiritual discourse by various scholars to the Kurmar Paad aarti varghodo, what an array of events we have experienced! If you attended the General Body meeting a few weeks ago, you would have seen the video highlights and would have agreed! Do you have a favorite that you recall? Tel us about it!

I also want to take a moment and really appreciate my EC team for all their hard work throughout the year. It's not an easy job at all but definitely one that requires passion and a big heart, to give what is most precious and invaluable. The gift of time. Time that is always less for our fast-moving lives! So, Kudos to the team and looking forward to working with you next year!

Well, I am sure everyone is getting ready for the holidays and the kids are ready for winter break! Have a happy and safe rest of the year! Sit back, relax and enjoy our last quarterly newsletter of 2019!

## Did you know?

### What is significance of Swastika or Saathiyo in Jainism?

At temple, during Ashtaprakari puja, we perform Akshat puja followed by creating a specific design using Akshat (Rice). This design consists of Swastika at bottom, then 3 dots above it, and Siddha Shila (a dot and half moon) at top. This overall design is considered to be representation of the Jain Universe.

The Swastika represents 4 "Gatis"(realms): Manushya Gati (Top Left), Dev Gati (Top Right), Tiryanch Gati (Bottom Left) and Narak Gati (Bottom Right).

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### Advisor

Heena Shah

### Council Member

Karan Sheth

Temple Hours:

Monday to Friday: 7:00 AM to 8:00 AM

Saturday : 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM; Sunday : 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM



Ahimsa Day

## Spotlight

A day of Ahimsa (non-violence) celebrated in the temple to honor Mahatma Gandhi, on his very special, 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary. Mahatma Gandhi was the champion of non-violence, love, peace and forgiveness. Since 2007, October 2<sup>nd</sup> is also designated as the UN International Day of Non-violence. This is a global observance that promotes non-violence through education and public awareness.

“Whenever you are confronted with an opponent, conquer him with love”.

The Jain center also showcased a few of our young adults **Pooja Shah, Neimi Mehta, Shaurya Lunkad, Dhruvi Shah, Prisha Shah, Anay Mehta, and Adit Mehta** who shared their thoughts about Jain Ahimsa.

## Did you know... Contd...

The 3 Dots represents 3 Jewels of Jainism: Samayak Darshan (Right Faith), Samayak Gyaan (Right Knowledge), Samayak Charitra (Right Conduct). These three principles are path leading to liberation or Moksha, which is represented by Siddha Shila. A dot in the Siddha Shila represents the liberated soul (Siddha) and the half moon represents the location where all liberated souls reside.

So, next time when you do Akshat puja or draw this design, you can say, "Hey Prabhu, Give me strength to be liberated from 4 Gatis and reach Siddha Shila, by following Samayak Darshan-Gyaan-Charitra"

## Pathshala Corner

2019-2020 PLC year has started with great momentum and experienced teachers. We are continuing with three Pathshala level classes, PL1 - young kids who are getting introduced with basics of Jainism, PL2 – mid age kids, who are getting introduced with tons of sutras, puja vidhi, samayik vidhi and detailed knowledge of Jainism, PL3 – teenage kids and adults who are challenged to express and converse on what really Jainism means and how to incorporate in our daily life. Along with three levels of pathshala we are continuing with two levels of Gujarati classes. Level 1 introduces them to basics of gujarati letters, word, numbers and conversations and Level 2 takes them to next level of language conversational comfort.

Gujarati Level 1 class is led and taught by Jigna Shah, who has been living in USA since last 40+ years. She is a young professional who works at Chase. Along with that, she has great passion for gujarati and teaching the same to young children. She has volunteered at the temple for the classes almost 2 + years. She understands importance of learning Gujarati very well since she herself went through the same process.

Gujarati Level 2 class is led and taught by Shirali Shah, who is by profession is a CPA and has been working with Department of Defense for almost 9+ years. Shirali has been resident of USA for almost 15+ years and has been part of JCOCO sangh for almost over 14 years. She has been part of Gujarati classes for almost 5+ years and really enjoys her time with kids teaching and help them converse in gujarati. She believes learning different languages not only bring one close to that culture but also help kids strengthen their capacity to learn anything that comes their way.

Thank you to all the teachers for their services and dedication to all the students and JCOCO. On behalf of JCOCO & teachers we wish you all happy holidays!

## Jain Recipe

Colorful and fun vegan sugar cookies. These soft and chewy sugar cookies are super easy and perfect for any occasion.

### For the Cookies:

- 1/2 cup (112g) Vegan Butter
- 3/4 cups (150g) Sugar
- 1 tsp Vanilla Extract
- 1/4 tsp Almond Extract
- 2 cups (250g) All Purpose Flour
- 1 tsp Baking Soda
- 1/4 tsp Salt
- 2 Tbsp Soy Milk (or other non-dairy milk)

### For the Decorating Frosting:

- 1 cup (120g) Powdered (Confectioners) Sugar
- 1/2 tsp Vanilla Extract
- 1 Tbsp Soy Milk (or other non-dairy milk)

### Instruction:

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F (180°C)
2. Cream the vegan butter and sugar together and then add the vanilla extract and almond extract.
3. Sift the flour into a mixing bowl. Add the baking soda and salt.
4. Add the dry ingredients to the wet and mix in by hand until crumbly. Add soy milk and mix in to make a big ball of dough. If too crumbly to form the dough, add in a little more soy milk until it does.
5. Flour your hands and a baking mat and transfer the ball of dough to the baking mat.
6. Use a rolling pin to roll out the dough to around 1/4 to 1/2 inch thick, dip a cookie cutter into flour so it doesn't stick and cut out your cookies. Transfer the cookies to a parchment lined baking tray. With the remaining dough, form it into a ball and then roll it out again and repeat.
7. For round cookies, simply tear off pieces of the dough and roll into balls and place the balls onto a parchment lined baking tray. Flour the bottom of a glass and use that to press down on the balls to flatten them neatly before baking.
8. Bake in the oven for 10 minutes.
9. Remove from the oven and allow to cool completely before decorating.
10. Prepare your decorating frosting by adding the powdered sugar, vanilla and soy milk to an electric mixing bowl. Start on low speed and gradually increase speed until smooth. If you need a little more soy milk then add it a drop at a time so that you don't use too much. The consistency will be very sticky, almost gluey. Separate into 2 bowls. Add a drop of food coloring into each bowl and mix in.
11. Decorate the cookies and allow to set before serving.

## Community News



### #SEWADIWALI FOOD DRIVE -

SewaDiwali is a joint initiative of 50+ Organizations, temples and individuals. JCOCO contributed around 200 pounds of food items for this drive as we believe that it is very important for the community to give back to the local community and let them know that we care about them.

According to the organizers, through the Sewa Diwali drive, they reached nearly 1,000 people and collected over 17,500 pounds of food items.

### Thank you for lunches:

Shirali Shah, Sapna Varia, Chhaya Gala, Kanchana Shah, Priya Sheth, Rekhaben Shah, Charuben Shah, Hemaben Shah, Bhartiben Shah, Rupaben Doshi and Chetna Chhajed, Bindu Vora, Mona Mehta, Nidhi Lunkad, Melinda Shah, Shilpi Mehta, and Kavita Jain

Thanks also to the Digambar families, Sunny and Ashu Shah for sponsoring Diwali lunch, Abhi and Shrutee Shah for taking laabh of Snatra puja and Swamivatsalya.

## Upcoming Events

Date	Event
1/12/2020	EC Metting 1
3/8/2020	Bhav Yatra (Palitana) - For Fagaan Sud Teras - 6 gaav yatra
3/31/2020	Ayambil Oli 3/31-4/08
4/5/2020	Sangh Snatra (Oli/Mahavir Janma Celebration)
4/6/2020	Actual Mahavir Janma Kalyanak
4/8/2020	Ayambil Oli Ends
4/9/2020	Parasbhai Swadhyaya
4/10/2020	Parasbhai Swadhyaya
4/11/2020	Parasbhai Swadhyaya
4/12/2020	Parasbhai Swadhyaya
4/13/2020	Parasbhai Swadhyaya (TBD)

### Temple Hours:

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