



# 2018 YJA Convention Fundraising Packet

**July 5th - July 8th**

The Westin O'Hare  
Chicago, IL

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2018 YJA Fundraising Convention Committee  
**[fundraising.chi@yja.org](mailto:fundraising.chi@yja.org)**



YOUNG JAINS OF AMERICA

# Young Jains of America

## Reconnecting with Our Roots | 13<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention

In Partnership with the Jain Society of Metropolitan Chicago

[2018@yja.org](mailto:2018@yja.org) • [convention.yja.org](http://convention.yja.org)



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## Letter from the 2018 YJA Convention Committee

Jai Jinendra,

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to Young Jains of America. We are a non-profit organization of 10,000 youth across North America dedicated to learning more about Jainism and applying its messages of non-violence, multiplicity of viewpoints, and non-possessiveness. By fostering connections within the Jain community, we hope to increase the Jain impact on the greater society as a whole. YJA's members and alumni have continued on to become successful teachers, humanitarians, doctors, business owners, and leaders in their respective fields and industries.

From July 5th-8th, approximately 750 young Jains from across the country will unite together in Chicago, Illinois for our 13<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention. They will build a lasting foundation of faith by exploring and deepening their understanding of their roots from their peers, leaders, Jain scholars and monks, and a diverse range of guest speakers from within and outside of the Jain community. In addition, we will spur Jains to action through service learning, social entrepreneurship, and innovative education.

As emphasized during the Convention, Jainism is a philosophy that believes in self growth. Via its three-jewel concept, it says that any individual - with clarity, curiosity, and action - can progress forward towards his or her ultimate goal.

We share a common vision and goal for the future of Jainism in North America, and with your support, we can create the future toward which we all aspire. This Convention will focus on reconnecting with our roots within Jainism to help create progressive change within ourselves and the communities around us. We appreciate your time and would like to thank you in advance for reviewing this packet. Your ongoing support of young Jains in America is deeply appreciated and will help us achieve our shared goal for the *2018 YJA Convention: Reconnecting with Our Roots*. If you have any questions at all, please feel free to reach us at [fundraising.chi@yja.org](mailto:fundraising.chi@yja.org).

Sincerely,

**The 2018 Young Jains of America Convention Committee**



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## What Does YJA Do?

Young Jains of America, or YJA, is an organization under the Federation of the Jain Associations of North America (JAINA).

As an organization, our **goals** are:

1. To raise awareness about Jain ideals and principles in North America and the world;
2. To create a forum for sharing Jain religion;
3. To instill a sense of pride among youth about Jain heritage;
4. To address the problems, difficulties, and concerns facing Jain youth;
5. To assist and to promote charitable community activities;
6. To prepare youth, who ascribe to Jain values, to become successful leaders of tomorrow;
7. To develop friendships among the youth, who ascribe to Jain values; and
8. To foster and strengthen local Jain youth groups.

## Notable Events & Projects

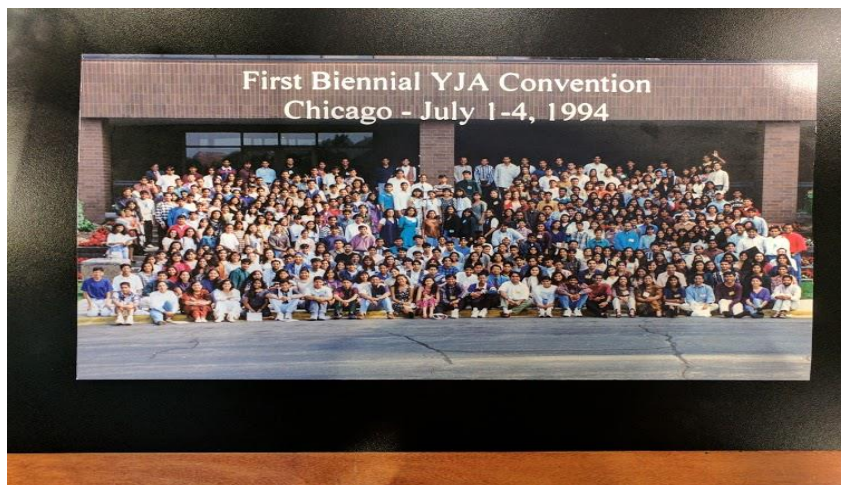
**Regional Retreats** - The Retreats instill a strong sense of community amongst Jains in their region and expand our attendees' knowledge about Jainism. We provide Jain-friendly food and activities, such as vegan baking seminars and philosophy educational sessions. Past retreat attendees have not only been more likely to be more involved in the Jain community, but are also more likely to give back. The vast majority of YJA and YJP Executive Board members, Youth Group Executive Committee members, and College Chapter presidents have been retreat attendees. A growth in interest has led to the hosting of multiple Retreats per year, further building these regional networks and friendships.

**Young Minds** - A quarterly publication that acts as a platform to inspire and engage young Jains with Jain values and actions. It consists of research, feature articles, interviews, recipes, and educational information. Everything is written, edited, and compiled for the youth BY the youth. *Young Minds* is distributed electronically to prevent wastage of paper and it is accessible to everyone.

**YJA Pathshala** - YJA Pathshala is an online self-paced course for learning more about Jainism. Intended for youth ages 16-29 who cannot regularly access a traditional Pathshala, these materials will provide a basic foundational understanding of Jain principles and practice. Content covered has included the History of Jainism after Bhagwan Mahavir, Karma Theory, and Jain Cosmology and is conveyed through handouts, interactive videos, podcasts, and more.

**Community Service Projects** - In May 2017, YJA teamed up with its international counterparts, YJUK and Young Jains Singapore, to host its first ever international Walk-A-Thon. This charity event raised over \$1,400 for Akshaya Patra, an organization that aims to end child hunger in India and promote education through providing school lunches. In the same year, YJA's Annual Interregional Clothing Drive raised over 7,000 items of clothing for various charitable organizations across the US. YJA also serves the community on an ongoing basis, connecting youth volunteers with Veerayatan through emergency relief programs and organizing annual National Service Weekends wherein young Jains give back to their community through serving food at homeless shelters, cleaning community centers, and more.

## Biennial Conventions



**1994 YJA Convention - Chicago, IL**



**2016 YJA Convention - Los Angeles, CA**

Subsidized registration fees for attendees include hotel accommodations, meals, souvenirs, and access to all events for the full 4-day Convention. Funds are also used to finance security, hospitality, transportation and travel assistance for attendees and speakers.



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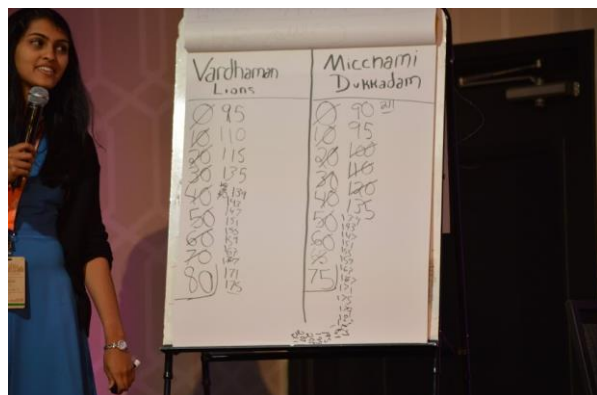
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**Keynote Speakers** - At past Conventions, YJA has hosted a variety of inspirational speakers such as Houston Kraft (*below*; speaker/kindness advocate), Vivek Maru (CEO of Namati: Innovations in Legal Empowerment), Robert Cheeke (VegNews Magazine's Most Influential Vegan Athletes), Nimesh "Nimo" Patel (activist hip/hop artist), and Sonal Shah (Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the first White House Office of Social Innovation and Civic Participation).



**Jain Networking Forum** - Jain Networking Forum (JNF) fosters professional and social relationships between Jains of ages 21-29. It provides attendees the opportunity to meet like minded individuals through interactive daytime sessions and creates lasting connections with Jains successful in a wide variety of careers.



**Jain Academic Bowl (JAB)** - The Jain Academic Bowl (JAB) is a team-based competition for young Jains. Topics range from Jain scriptures, prayers, and philosophy to Jain geography, history, and Jainism in the modern world. This YJA Convention, we will be changing the format of the traditional JAB game by breaking up the game into three new rounds, each of which encourages teamwork and collaboration.



**Jains in Action (JIA)** - Jains in Action (JIA) takes YJA beyond just the convention. JIA provides a platform for today's youth to use Jain values, personal knowledge, and past experiences to solve some of today's most pressing issues. Similar to a social hackathon, JIA participants present their issue and solution to a panel of judges.

This solution can take the form of a product, business, organization, or movement that inspires others to act.

In 2016, the winning team developed *Hungrily*, a platform that unites restaurants and other food surplus producers, drivers, and soup kitchens/homeless shelters to efficiently schedule the pickup and drop-off of food surplus.

**Daytime Programming** - The attendees have the unique opportunity to connect, learn, and share their thoughts with one another on a variety of Jain-related subjects. Sessions, speakers, and friends all come together to complete the learning experience through a variety of fun, innovative, and interactive programming. Previous sessions include "The Importance of the Jain Agams", "Living Meditation: Find Your Inner Peace", and "The Jain Networker: Corporate and Business".





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**Social Programming** - Social programming allows attendees to prepare for the weekend with new friends. Events include carnival nights, talent competitions, and garba dances.



## 2018 Sponsorship Levels

### **Donor | \$201+**

- Recognition on the YJA Convention Website
- An online copy of the Souvenir Booklet

### **Sponsor | \$501**

- One quarter page ad in the Souvenir Booklet
- Recognition on the YJA Convention Website
- A copy of the Souvenir Booklet

### **Bronze Sponsor | \$1,001**

- One half page ad in the Souvenir Booklet
- Recognition on the YJA Convention Website
- A copy of the Souvenir Booklet

### **Silver Sponsor | \$2,501**

- One half page ad in the Souvenir Booklet
- Recognition on the YJA Convention Website
- A copy of the Souvenir Booklet
- **\*Highlight!** - Session Speaker (1)

### **Gold Sponsor | \$5,001**

- Public recognition during opening and closing ceremonies
- Full page ad in the Souvenir Booklet
- Recognition on the YJA Convention Website
- A copy of the Souvenir Booklet
- **\*Highlight!**\* - Session Speakers (3) or Breakfast

### **Platinum Sponsor | \$10,001**

Gold Sponsor Level Recognition in addition to:

- Recognition in the YJA E-Newsletter
- On-stage recognition during Opening Ceremony
- **\*Highlight!**\* - Lunch, Keynote, JIA/JAB event, or Hospitality Suite

### **Diamond Sponsor | \$20,001**

- Recognition in the YJA E-Newsletter
- A memorable plaque from the 2018 YJA Convention
- On-Stage Recognition during Opening Ceremony
- **\*Highlight!**\* - Main Event(s), Souvenir Bag, or Dinner

*\*Highlight!\*: In honor of your generosity, YJA will be recognizing you, your family, or your sangh's donation at one or more of our highlight events or sessions. Highlight Events will involve posting a large banner or sign at the event "With Blessings from: (insert name here)." Please note that each highlight is a significant offering. Available in limited quantities.*



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## Donation Form

### I would like to contribute to the **2018 YJA Convention: Reconnecting with Our Roots**

**Online:** at [convention.yja.org/donate](http://convention.yja.org/donate)

-or-

**Check:** Made out to “Federation of Jain Association of North America” with a memo referencing the 2018 YJA Convention and sent to YJA’s Director of Finance, Sidhant Gandhi, at:

45730 Vineyard Ave  
Fremont, CA 94539

A letter of appreciation & a receipt for your tax-exempt donation will be sent to you at:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address, City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Sangh Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

**Donation Amount:** \_\_\_\_\_

Signature

Date

## 2018 YJA Convention Committee



## 2018 Convention Fundraising Committee



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