



YOUNG JAINS OF AMERICA

2019-2020 Annual Report

**EDUCATION.
COMMUNITY.
SERVICE & EVENTS.**



Dear YJA Members,

How can we even begin to describe the last 12 months? Our long list of goals that we set out to achieve was met with an equally long list of roadblocks and challenges to overcome. The pandemic forced us to cancel three retreats this year, including what would have been our first-ever West ski retreat and the largest South Retreat in YJA history, not to mention the 2020 YJA Convention in Dallas.

However, each of these difficulties was met with an equal, if not stronger, force of resilience from our incredible community. We managed to host the largest ever retreat in YJA history in the Poconos and pivoted to an entirely virtual event in July: YJA Day 2020. In fact, our time at home forced us to take a closer look inward into the organization and focus on strengthening our core pillars of education, community, and service & events.

For education, we worked to find ways to make learning and practicing Jainism easier for the average YJA member. Our Derasar Handout has made practicing Chaityavandan easier, YJA Quantum has brought searching thousands of books in seconds right to your fingertips, and the Paryushan lecture series allowed us to deliver English youth lectures to the computers of members all across the country.

Strengthening our community without the ability to meet in-person countered our traditional model of bonding through retreats, national dinners, and our flagship biennial Convention. However, we were able to find innovative ways to engage the community that resulted in even more turnout than our in-person events could have achieved. Through multiple national and regional game nights, a 1,000+ person attendance at YJA Day 2020, and regular educational webinars and online sessions, attendees were able to interact with other members and speakers from all across North America.

Finally, this year we took the time to reflect on the resources available at our disposal and how we as an organization could support both our own community and other communities facing hardships. Within the Jain community, we were able to help support Sangh Pathshalas as they transitioned to online learning, and we were also able to raise \$10,001 to help support animal shelters in Gujarat as well as Jains in India who lost their jobs. Additionally, we helped raise awareness and funds for International Women’s Day, donating to CARE India, while our Local Representatives were able to do the same for UNICEF and The Loveland Foundation.

Adversity often has the ability to bring out the worst in us - anxiety, hopelessness, and fear. At the same time, it presents a unique opportunity to adapt and evolve as better human beings. Thank you to each and every one of you - our community is making active efforts to overcome these obstacles, stay open-minded to new experiences, and enact changes for the benefit of others. This is our legacy as YJA for the 2019-2020 year.

We’d be remiss if we didn’t take this opportunity to acknowledge the incredible work our fellow board members put in over the past year. From dedicating hours to planning and strategy to helping us navigate some of the most difficult decisions our organization has ever had to make, this talented team made serving the young Jain community one of the most fulfilling and memorable experiences we’ve ever had.

Thank you so much for coming along with us for this incredible journey these past 12 months, and we can’t wait to see what’s in store for all of us this upcoming year!

Parshva Vakharia & Vatsal Gandhi

Top Row:

West Regional Coordinator: Bansari Shah
Director of Publications: Satej Shah
Director of Finance: Sanjana Jain
Co-Chair: Parshva Vakharia
Co-Chair: Vatsal Gandhi
Director of Technology: Anish Visaria
Mid-Atlantic Regional Coordinator: Aayush Shah
Director of Project Development: Pranay Patni

Bottom Row:

Mid-West Regional Coordinator: Miten Shah
Northeast Regional Coordinator: Pratik Shah
South Regional Coordinator: Rupal Sanghavi
Director of Events: Charmi Shah
Director of Fundraising: Dhara Bhalani
Director of Public Relations: Ruchi Vora
Southeast Regional Coordinator: Mahin Bhavsar
Director of Education: Harshita Jain

To provide youth with a platform that promotes spiritual and cultural awareness of Jainism, fosters an interconnected community, and cultivates a Jain way of life in North America



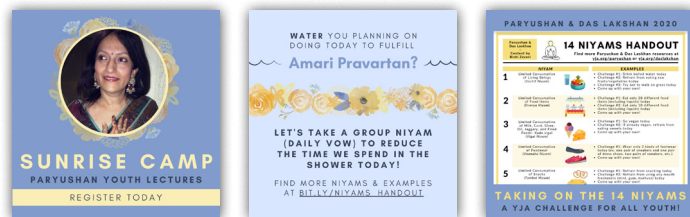
LEARN.





This year, YJA collected and created a variety of resources for youth to use during [Paryushan and Das Lakshan](#). Promoting reflection, introspection, and lifestyle changes, this year's offerings featured articles, a [podcast](#), [youth lectures](#), [worksheets](#), [vow spotlights](#), and more!

- 1st Paryushan youth lecture series to be hosted by YJA
- Digambar Voices campaign launched to bring light to how different people celebrate Das Lakshan



2,000+

Views On The YJA Samvatsari Pratikraman Recording With English Explanations

670+

Interactions With The Michhami Dukkadam Posts Across All Social Media Platforms

500+

Clicks On The 14 Niyams Handout, Intended To Inspire Vow-Taking Among Those Aged 5+

100+

Attendees At Tejalben Shah's Youth Lectures

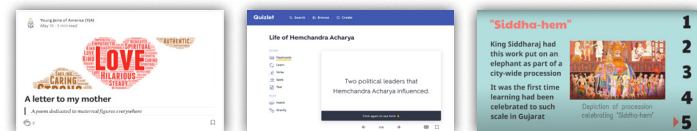
18

Nights Of Nightly Prayers With 30+ Unique Attendees



YJA Pathshala

[YJA Pathshala](#) is an online self-paced course for learning more about Jainism. Intended for youth ages 14-29 who cannot regularly access a traditional Pathshala, these materials will provide a basic foundational understanding of Jain principles and practices.



150+

Clicks Overall On Resources For The Hemchandra Acharya Pathshala Module

5+

Mediums Utilized: Quizlet, Medium, Slide Decks, Handouts, Videos, Discussion Forums, Kahoot!

YJA Jain Panchang

Launched in January 2020, the [YJA Jain Panchang](#) allows youth and working professionals to stay on top of important Jain holidays and festivals, tithis, and kalyanaks over the course of the year through virtual Google Calendars that can be seamlessly integrated into their own. It has been used by youth to make active, spiritually-oriented lifestyle changes based on the occurrence of auspicious Jain dates.

Jainism 101

[Jainism 101](#) is a series of videos that helps explain the fundamental concepts of Jainism in a simple way. These minute-long videos feature bite-sized pieces of content with relevant examples designed to help even non-Jains increase their understanding of this well-established faith.

4

Episodes Released

Karma Theory, The Five Vrats, Maharaj Sahebs, And Paryushan & Das Lakshan

Derasar Handouts

[This project](#) aims to create comprehensive, supplemental guides to rituals for Jain youth to use at their temples and Jain centers. These feature English transliterations of sutras, pictures accompanied by English directions, and access to sutra recordings.

20

People at the [first-ever ritual workshop](#)

[Chaityavandan Handout](#) Was Approved By Hem Yasha Shriji Maharaj Saheb

Trivia Challenge

YJA's Trivia Challenges are held each season and are designed to encourage learning about Jainism through a fun, competitive, and virtual event. Typically held on Facebook, these appeal primarily to those with some background in Jainism but are open to all levels of Jain knowledge.

80+

Total Participants

60+

Unique Questions

Younger Minds

[Younger Minds](#) is an all-new, quarterly publication meant for budding young Jains across the country. It strives to provide children with the opportunity to develop a connection with Jainism and a love for learning at a younger age, whether reading alone or with a parent.

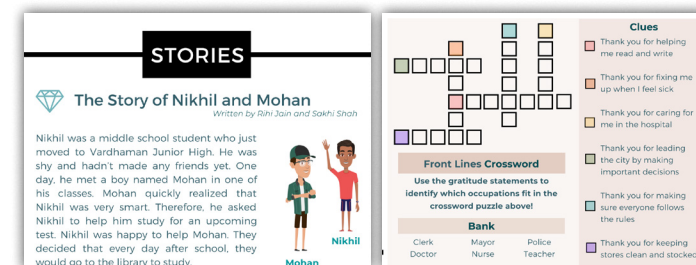
- 1st resource created explicitly for the "YJA-incoming" age group
- Features philosophy lessons, Jain stories, activities & puzzles, life lessons, and pathshala spotlights

600+

Clicks On The [1st Issue](#)

45

Total Pages



Jain Math Tournament

The [Jain Mathematics Tournament](#) is a week-long math tournament where contestants attempt to solve challenging math problems related to Jain philosophy, cosmology, and number theory.

2

Seasons

400+

Problem Solvers

Maharaj Saheb Messages

[This Project Team](#) aims to build a bridge between Sadhus and Sadhvis and Jain youth via written correspondence. MSM hopes to create an accessible platform that will allow more opportunities for youth to ask questions and receive answers from various Maharaj Sahebs while reigniting their faith.

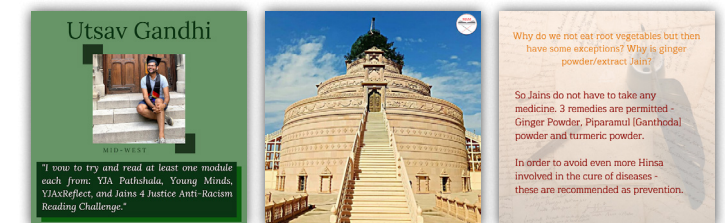
- Added Acharya Ratnasundar Suriiji to the network
- Featured 18 vow-takers during Paryushan/Das Lakshan

65+

Questions Asked

390+

Followers On [Instagram](#)



Jain Quantum

[Jain Quantum](#) is a Jain literature search engine that aims to create the most accessible search experience for everyone, including Pathshala students, teachers, university professors, and non-Jains, as well. Jain Quantum was created through OCR (optical character recognition) and full-text search technology to enable a parse of the book collection on [JaineLibrary](#).

20,000+

Views In The First Four Days

25,000+

Texts Available

IMPACT.





YJA’s [Celebration of Compassion](#) was a month-long campaign that explored how YJA’s community could demonstrate compassion through thoughts, words, and actions! Throughout December, YJA spotlighted compassionate individuals, suggested ways to celebrate with vegan, cruelty-free, and compassionate recipes and gifts, and highlighted organizations that demonstrated compassion in their purpose and work.

Campaign Included: Interregional Clothing Drive, Blankets & Bhavanas, Thoughtful Thursdays, Compassionate Gift Giving Guide, YJA Pathshala Module on Religious Tolerance, Philanthropic Fridays, Saturday Spotlights, and Facebook Photo Campaign

300+
Clicks On [Gift Giving Guide](#)

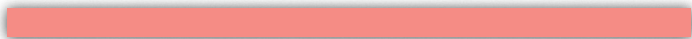
500+
Volunteer Hours Logged

30+
Individuals Highlighted

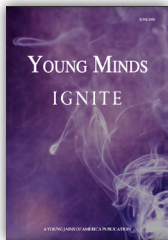
50+
Blankets Made



Blankets and Bhavanas: Attendees of all ages at various sanghs came together to learn more about the issue of homelessness, understand the auxiliary Bhavana (contemplation) of compassion, and apply their newfound knowledge through a blanket-making service activity.



Young Minds



[Young Minds](#) is YJA’s flagship publication that allows Jain youth to share and learn from each others’ perspectives, stories, ideas, and opinions, highlight key events and projects, and share Jain educational content. This year, YJA published 2 full issues while collaborating with 100+ people around the world to make them possible. The [June 2020 issue](#) was the second-longest ever at 46 pages!

25,000+
Impressions

24,541
Words

Medium Blog

[This platform](#) allows Jain youth to share stand-alone articles. The site also hosts all of the digital archives of Young Minds articles where they are easily searchable and shareable. YJA hopes that this will encourage more people to read the work of our talented writers.

16
Articles

3,700+
Views

1,900+
Reads

YJA Reflect

[YJA Reflect](#) aims to be a space where members can come together to interact with and learn from others, discuss, respond, comment, and dive into topics of Jainism like never before. This Project Team launched the [YJA Reflect Facebook group](#), transitioning away from the YJA Forums interface and then have since begun hosting events, such as book clubs and group film discussions.

Newsletters

This platform features news and events in the Jain community. [YJA’s newsletters](#) were revamped this year with 14+ releases and a new design. YJA aspires for this platform to be the formal method of communication between the leadership and the community. If you haven’t already, make sure to [subscribe](#)!

3,000+
Subscribers

College Chapters



[This project](#) supports existing college chapters and helps Jain college youth create new ones as well. In addition, this Project Team provides resources, advice, and connections to incoming college freshmen. This year, the team began the process of starting new college chapters at UMD, in Philadelphia, and in the Boston area. They also started the College Communications initiative and the College Applications Workshop to further involve high school seniors with YJA and connect them with Jains in college.

Webinars



As high school seniors were making decisions on colleges and current college students have transitioned to distant learning, YJA took the opportunity this past April to [discuss navigating through college](#) with the youth in the community!

11
Panelists

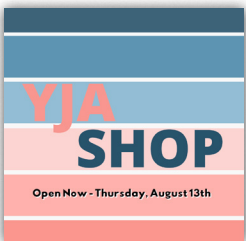
100+
Attendees

YJA Restaurants



Whether you are currently a Jain-vegetarian/vegan or aspiring to become one, looking to explore Jain local food options while traveling, or are looking to try something new, [YJA Restaurants](#) can help you find a restaurant through its ever-expanding database. This year, YJA published the first-ever national database of Jain-friendly restaurants including both national and local restaurants and franchises.

YJA Shop



YJA Shop gave members the opportunity to purchase YJA and Jainism-themed merchandise this year. A pop-up model was used, in which the shop was open for a 2-week period and orders were fulfilled once the shop closed.

150+
Orders Placed

275+
Items Ordered

Aneka Podcast



At [Aneka](#), they attempt to answer the unanswerable. Through discussion, this Project Team explores metaphysics with scientific, religious, ethical, and philosophical perspectives. Lots of questions. Occasionally answers. Always fun.

7
Full-Length Episodes

250+
Unique Listeners

200+
Minutes Of Audio

1,500+
Overall Streams



Networking Database

[This platform](#) aims to increase professional networking within the YJA community and alumni network. This tool helps members of all ages, ranging from high school seniors seeking college application advice to experienced professionals looking for networking opportunities for years to come. The team completely redesigned and revamped the existing networking database (both UX & maintenance) and then increased the visibility across YJA’s audience. The database grew from 50 to over 250 contacts!

Humans of YJA



[Humans of YJA](#) is a photoblog composed of stories from different people all around the world. The initiative aims to positively use social media to share experiences of the Jain youth and help connect more members.

4
Posts

649
Average Words/Post

1,100+
Average Impressions/Post





SUPPORT.

Sadharmik Bhakti and Jiv Daya Fundraiser



\$10,001 In Total Contributions

This year, in conjunction with Paryushan and Das Lakshan, YJA hosted a fundraiser for [Shree Navkar Saravar Kendra](#) located in Ahmedabad, India. The objective of this was to practice the Jain values of Sadharmik Bhakti (service to fellow Jains) and Jiv Daya (compassion for other living beings) during this auspicious time by supporting a cause.

Shree Navkar Saravar Kendra supports animal welfare and fellow Jains in Ahmedabad that have recently experienced financial difficulties due to COVID-19. Because of the pandemic, many families have struggled due to loss of jobs and business, and are struggling to make ends meet. This organization provides aid to families who need assistance with paying rent, food, school tuition, and more.

Intl. Women's Day



100+ Shares On The [Original Post](#) **\$117** Donated To CARE India

YJA hosted a fundraiser for [CARE India](#), an NGO that serves underprivileged women & girls in rural areas, as well as works for women empowerment, girls' education, and maternal & child healthcare through various projects.

Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday is an event to support nonprofit organizations, during which Facebook matches donations made to these entities. Each year, YJA uses this fundraiser to amplify donations that are made to the organization and raise money to support YJA initiatives.

\$2,207 Raised Via Facebook **62** Donors

Australia Fundraiser

In January of 2020, Australia suffered from devastating wildfires that harmed and endangered the lives and habitats of many living beings. In order to support relief efforts, YJA hosted a fundraiser for the [World Wildlife Fund](#) through its social media platforms.

YJA committed to donating \$2 to the World Wildlife Fund for each "green act" that a member of the community completed and shared on social media. Green acts included using a reusable water bottle, bringing bags from home for groceries, and recycling.

Big Bucks For Change



Over the summer, a team of South and Mid-West Local Representatives coordinated with 45 other Local Representatives in six regions to fundraise for COVID-19 relief and a therapy fund for Black women and girls. Fundraising methods consisted of individual outreach on Instagram, Facebook, and WhatsApp, and personalized fundraising pages for each Local Representative through 99Pledges.

\$2,800 Donated To [UNICEF's](#) COVID-19 Relief Efforts **\$2,800** Donated To [The Loveland Foundation](#)

On behalf of the entire YJA community, the 2019-2020 Executive Board would like to sincerely thank each and every member who supported YJA and its fundraisers, events, and other initiatives this year. The organization would not have been able to make an impact of this caliber without their support.

LARGEST. RETREAT. EVER.



Local Events

Until March of 2020, YJA held many in-person events such as bowling and ice skating nights, board game nights, socials, and youth Sangh lock-ins. Afterwards, YJA local events took place virtually in the form of game nights, sessions, and service events like cardmaking for seniors.

22

Events

382+

Combined Total Attendees



National Dinners

National Dinners are one of YJA's traditional social events held every October to November to kick off the new board year. They give Jain youth in cities all over North America a chance to meet others while trying out Jain and vegan-friendly meals! Attendees engaged in conversations about Jainism and created friendships that grew throughout the year.

32

National Dinners

440+

Total Attendees



Jains In Action



[Jains in Action \(JIA\)](#) is a YJA Project Team focused on creating opportunities for Jain youth to practice social entrepreneurship and problem-solving. The JIA team organized their first-ever Virtual Hackathon this year! 8 teams with 39 total participants worked together to identify a world issue or problem and develop an actionable solution that was connected to Jain values. This year, one of the projects that started out at JIA 2018 - the Jain Mentorship Program - officially launched with over 50 mentor-mentee pairs!

Online Pathshala

As the COVID-19 pandemic began to emerge, Pathshalas across North America were working to figure out how they were going to host classes without in-person gatherings permitted. In March, the Executive Board worked to help Pathshala classes migrate onto Google Meet, providing them with tutorials and instructions on how to use the platform.

Through these efforts, YJA was able to help 55+ classes at 8 Sanghs as they moved their Pathshala classes online. These included Sanghs in Chicago, Houston, New Jersey, Virginia, New York, Michigan, and Ohio.

Clothing Drive

The YJA National Clothing Drives is an annual tradition where YJA collaborates with Jain Centers to collectively donate new and gently-used clothing to shelters and other organizations. During this time, YJA relies on Local Representatives and other YJA Committee Members to coordinate these efforts. This year, YJA had over 12,000 articles of clothing donated across all 6 regions - the most ever collected!



IRLR Calls

Interregional LR (IRLR) Calls was a new initiative designed to bring LRs from all 6 regions together to increase collaboration and talk about various subjects. This was the first time ever Local Representatives were given an opportunity to converse in such a way. Attendees were able to share their perspectives and learn from others on various topics.

100+

Local Representatives Attended

National Game Nights

National Game Nights quickly became one of YJA's most popular virtual events this year. These events officially lasted 2-3 hours, but many members stayed on for 5-6+ hours spending time with new and old friends from all over North America!



Regional Cup

For the first time ever, YJA hosted the Regional Cup that allowed youth from all 6 regions to participate in 5 different activities. Of the 5 events, 3 were actively competitive (regions were able to face head-to-head on the virtual event) and 2 were passively competitive (teams completed events at a designated time for their region and then were compared to other regions).

186

Participants



REGIONAL RETREATS

755

Jain Meals Served

280+

Registered Before COVID-19

92

Attendees At Poconos

39

First-Time Attendees

32

Sessions

7

Total Retreats

4

Virtual Retreats

YJA's annual [retreats](#) are both a spiritual and a social experience - they give Jain youth the opportunity to learn from each others' experiences and perspectives on Jainism, all while forming new friendships! While YJA had 6 in-person retreats planned for 2020, COVID-19 resulted in 3 of the 6 transitioning to a virtual setting.

- All in-person retreats had a Jainism 101 Session: a short 15-20 min presentation where attendees were taught the basics of Jainism, allowing everyone to have a basic introduction and Jainism basis for the rest of the sessions that weekend. Topics included: the soul, karma theory, the 4 kashayas, the 3 As, moksh, and diksha.
- All in-person retreats had 100% Jain meals, with vegan options available at every meal.
- All virtual retreats were 100% free and hosted via Zoom.



West

This virtual retreat had 25 attendees and lasted three hours!

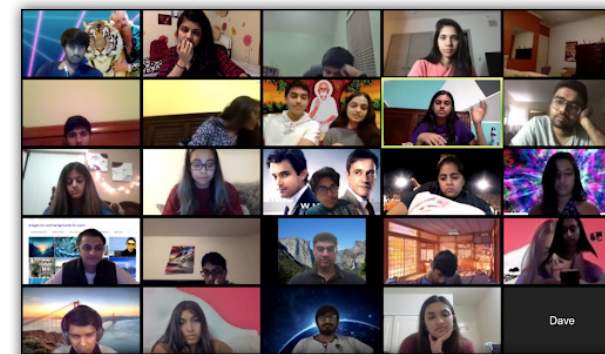
Attendees participated in ice breakers, a debate, a YJA trivia competition, and games such as Skribbl and Codenames.

Mid-West

The Mid-West Retreat was held in Saugatuck, Michigan with 42 attendees!

Session Highlights

- Networking 101: Attendees learned the basics of reaching out to others, preparing for coffee chats, and utilizing YJA's revamped Networking Database.
- One Bite at a Time - a Discussion on Progressive Approaches to Jain and Vegan Eating: Attendees were able to hear how young Jains are able to use their diet to be compassionate to living beings and abide by Jain principles.
- Stress is a Snowball: A discussion on mental health, well-being, and managing stress.



South

YJA's South Region hosted two virtual retreats!

Each retreat had a different session where attendees could engage in conversation and meet new young Jains.



Southeast

This virtual retreat had over 45 attendees!

YJA leveraged breakout rooms to conduct an hour-long debate session where attendees discussed the pros and cons to various topics in relations to Jainism.



Northeast

This retreat was held in Windham, NY with 15 people!

Session Highlights

- Annual Bake-Off: Attendees were given three base recipes for cookies and three secret ingredients. They were asked to make two out of the three recipes, and four different groups competed to see who made the best batch of cookies.
- A Single Story: A TED talk by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie ignited the conversation among attendees about Anekantavada and how it applies to their daily lives.



Mid-Atlantic

YJA hosted its largest retreat ever with 92 attendees at the Poconos this year!

Session Highlights

- Jain Values: Attendees participated in an introspection exercise and reflected on personal and Jain values.
- Taco 'Bout Taboos: Attendees were split into 2 groups where they discussed common taboos and best possible ways to approach them.
- Bhangra Workshop led by the [P&P Dance Crew](#)!

LEAD.





In the midst of the COVID-19 global pandemic and an international conversation around racial justice, YJA, like each of you, has been striving to adapt to a changing reality. To provide young Jains with a medium for exploration, learning, and discussion, this year's Convention Committee hosted [YJA Day 2020](#) on Saturday, July 11th. In keeping with the original theme of [#ProgressingWithPurpose](#) for the [2020 YJA Convention](#), YJA Day had a variety of online programming. With an incredible keynote, engaging social activities, and an inspiring roster of guest speakers composed of leaders, activists, and experts, the team made history by hosting YJA's biggest event ever!



In Partnership With
Jain Society of North Texas and Jain Center of New Jersey

Convention Committee Members

Aayush Shah, Adit Shah, Anish Visa, Avish Jain, Ayush Bhansali, Bansari Shah, Charmi Shah, Deesha Desai, Dhara Bhalani, Dharmi Shah, Dhvani Mehta, Forum Shah, Harshita Jain, Jaina Gandhi, Jubin Shah, Ketan Kapasi, Kinari Shah, Krish Kamdar, Mahin Bhavsar, Mansi Shah, Miten Shah, Mitesh Bhalani, Paakhee Shah, Paras Mehta, Parshva Vakharia, Pranay Patni, Pratik Shah, Riya Shah, Romit Nagda, Ronak Shah, Ruchi Vora, Rupal Sanghavi, Sanjana Jain, Satej Shah, Siddharth Shah, Simmi Nandu, Somil Sanghvi, Twinkle Shah, Umang Lathia, Vatsal Gandhi, and Vishwa Shah

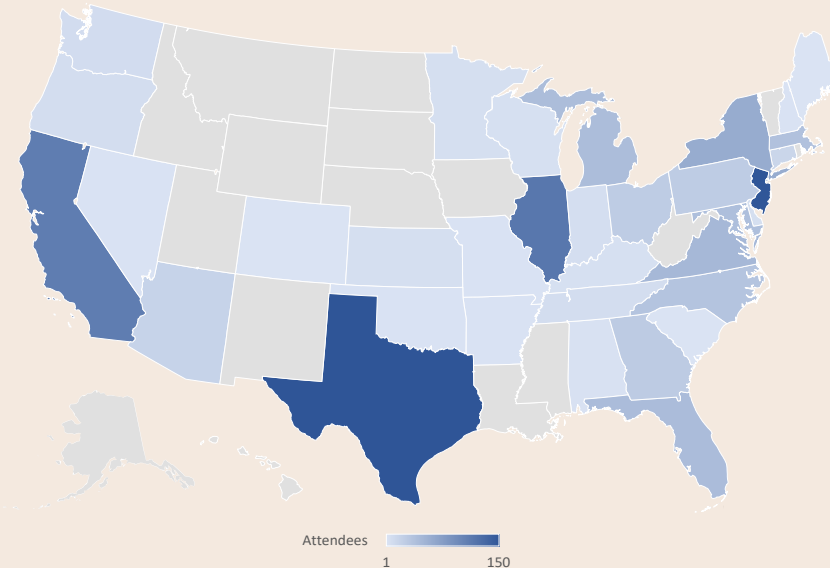
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Live Streamed
(HH/MM/SS)

41 Convention Committee Members

56 Subcommittee Members

14 Speakers

1st Ever YJA Day!



2,150+ Users Visited [virtual.yja.org](#)

1,100+ Registered Attendees

843 Attendees During Peak On Zoom

34 US States Represented

22 Countries Represented

Daytime Programming

Throughout the month of May, the team hosted distinguished guest speakers to talk about topics like their spiritual journeys, mental health and journaling, innovation and entrepreneurship, and South Asian representation in the media. Subsequently, at [YJA Day](#), the attention was on discussing various social issues, including combating racism, championing LGBTQ+ equality, and environmental justice.



Social Programming

The team realized many of our members felt inactive at home, so YJA found ways to get moving together as a community. Through Zoom-ba, Bollywood dance and Bhangra, bodyweight training, and power pilates, members were able to get up dancing and exercising every weekend of May! Fast forward to YJA Day in July, the Social Programming Committee had many take on the challenge of the YJA Virtual Escape Room, participate in the YJAWorld [Community Showcase](#) and [mixtape launch](#), and play games and meet new people during the game night and all-nighter.



JNF Programming

Catering to those ages 21 and up who are busy in their professional and academic lives can be tough, but the JNF Programming Committee was able to engage this demographic at a whole new level. Through trivia nights, a poetry slam, networking, and more, JNF aged-members were able to bond and interact in a smaller group setting over Zoom throughout May. Leading up to YJA Day, the JNF House Cup sorted members into Houses, where they competed in a series of challenges for the opportunity to donate to a charity of their choice.



Keynote Conversation



YJA Day's keynote conversation, moderated by Mihir Shah, was with award-winning actor, author, and activist Maulik Pancholy!

Other speakers included: Aanya Gandhi, Ambika Bumb, Ani Zonneveld, Anjali Shah, Avni Talsania, Brittany Oliver, Hari Venkatachalam, Parag Mehta, Simran Jeet Singh, Sonali Vakharia, Tejal Shah, Vaibhav Jain, and Vivek Maru

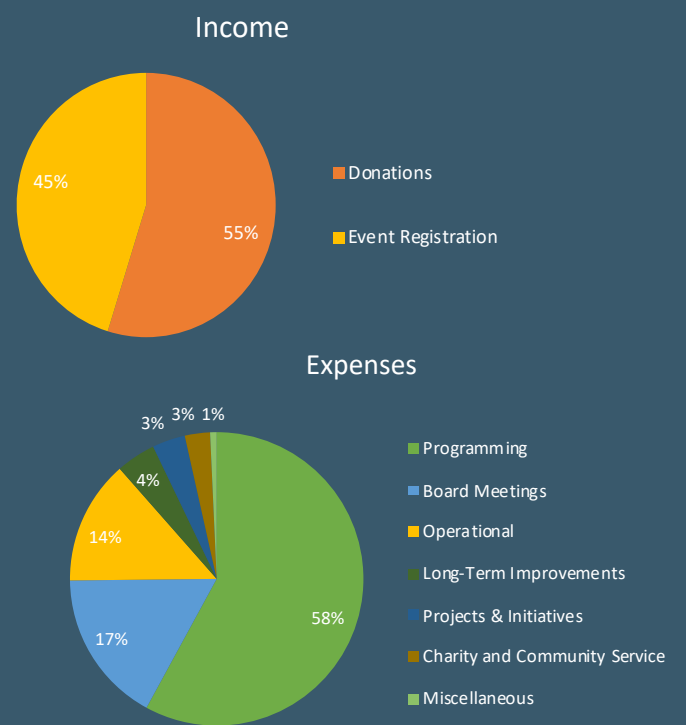
JNF House Cup Fundraiser

While the JNF House Cup was competitive and pitted Houses against each other in the battle for victory through crosswords, memes, podcasts, and more, it also brought awareness to a number of causes that JNF members were passionate about. In raising \$1,100, YJA was able to make a lasting impact on a number of charities. Coming in first place, Team Gryffindor donated \$400 to [Luvin Arms](#) and [Sakhi](#). The runner-up, Team Slytherin, donated \$280 to [SEWA Rural](#). Dumbledore's Army donated \$230 to the [CDC Foundation](#), Team Hufflepuff donated \$150 to Sanskar Tirth, and Team Ravenclaw donated \$50 to the [Coalition for Rainforest Nations](#). This event truly embodied the event theme of [#ProgressingWithPurpose](#).

Executive Board Highlights

Finances

Through savvy financial management and cost-saving initiatives, the Executive Board was largely able to maintain or reduce the cost of retreats year-over-year. This allowed the board to reallocate donations and event fees towards various projects and initiatives, financial assistance and transportation subsidies for retreat attendees, and general operating expenses, all with little-to-no increases in event registration fees.



Quickbooks

A key area of focus for the Finance Team this year was reorganizing YJA’s Quickbooks. The team reconciled past bank and credit card accounts, reorganized the Chart of Accounts, and reviewed past transactions to ensure completeness and accuracy. These efforts provided YJA with the opportunity to clean our books and ensure our finances were in order at the start of the term. The team also established a Finance Audit Chair to ensure continuous improvement and consistent maintenance of finances throughout the year.

AWS Migration

YJA’s technology stack was recently moved over to AWS Lambda, Github Pages, and Cloudflare from a single Digital Ocean server. This change brought flexibility in how YJA can develop new applications and allowed YJA to easily set up the Convention and YJA Day websites.

500,000+ Requests Served Monthly Through AWS Lambda

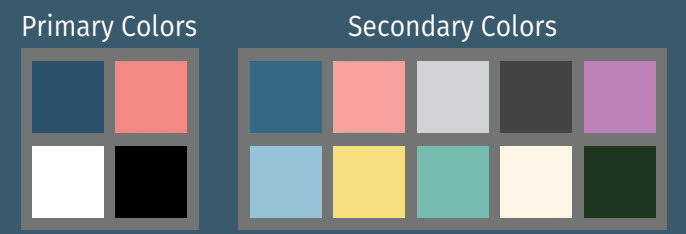
Operating Manual

Internal documentation is extremely important to ensure efficiency, consistency, and proper transfer of knowledge across board terms. A focus this year was to revisit the YJA Operating Manual and update information that may have changed over the past couple of years. Additionally, the Executive Board made efforts to fully integrate the YJA Brand Style guide into all internal documentation as well. Other steps taken to improve consistency and efficiency included the introduction of 1-page guides for every major YJA project, a retreat-planning Starter Pack to help with the retreat planning process each year, and improvements to templates for databases and trackers.

Brand Revamp

This year, the Executive Board determined that YJA’s brand could be improved in order to strengthen external presence through the following goals: to strengthen the quality and professionalism of the YJA brand; to establish consistency across platforms of the organization; to ensure that YJA content is cohesive, recognizable, and unified.

The board set a new mission statement and objectives for the organization, as well as revamped its visual identity.



Thank You

Donors

The Executive Board would like to thank our generous donors this year. In addition to raising funds for operations, YJA had the privilege of raising money for several causes such as accessibility to therapy, animal welfare, women empowerment, and COVID-19 relief! We also would like to thank the many members who donated a portion of their retreat and Convention fees back to the organization! Their continuous support is greatly appreciated as the organization’s events and initiatives would not be possible without their help.

Jain Center of New Jersey, Jain Center of Northern California, Jain Center of Greater Phoenix, and Jain Society of North Texas				
Aadit Mehta	Charmi Shah	Mihir Shah	Romit Nagda	Siddharth Shah
Aanya Gandhi	Charmi Vakharia	Mika Jain	Ronak Shah	Simmi Nandu
Aashna Shah	Chintav Shah & Family	Mishi Jain	Ruchi Vora	Simran Thakkar
Aayush Shah	Deval Shah	Mitesh Bhalani	Rupal Sanghavi	Swapnil Shah
Abishek Jain	Diksha Kurwa	Monika Jain	Rupesh Nalwaya	Tanay Shah
Agam Sheth	Hardik Sanghavi	Naimish Shah	Rushabh Kamdar	Tanvi Shah
Ajeet Choxi	Harsh Gandhi	Nikhil Bhavsar	Rushil Vora	Tina Banthia
Aneri Sheth	Hareesh Shah & Family	Nilesh Dagli & Family	Ryan Shah	Tushar Mehta
Anish Doshi	Harshesh Shah	Nishant Shah	Saachi Bhayani	Umang Lathia
Anish Visaria	Harshita Jain	Nishi Shah	Saejal Chatter	Utsav Gandhi
Anita Bhalani	Hetali Lodaya	Paras Shah	Sahil Thakkar	Vatsal Gandhi
Anjali Shah	Indu Bhavsar	Parshva Vakharia	Sanjana Jain	Vibha Shah
Anoushka Modi	Jessica Shah	Pinky Bhavsar	Sanjana Jhaveri	Vipul Shah
Ariha Kothari	Kajal Mehta	Pranay Patni	Sanjay Vora	Virag Vora
Avish Jain	Keval Gala	Pratik Shah	Sara Jain	Yash Momaya
Bansari Shah	Kiran Shah	Pravi Jain	Satyen and Sejal Zaveri	Yash Shah
Bhavik Nagda	Madhavi Shah	Preeti Jain	Sehal Shah	Yashvi Shah
Bhavik Shah	Mahendra Shah	Priyanka Shah	Shaan Mehta	
Bijal Shah	Mahin Bhavsar	Rishabh Bapna	Sharad Doshi	
Bindu Malbari	Manan Zaveri	Riya Patel	Shilpi Jain	

Board of Trustees

Navigating a pandemic with six retreats and an 800-person convention scheduled was one of the most challenging experiences of this past year. However, thanks to the continuous support and guidance of YJA’s [Board of Trustees](#), the Executive Board was able to maneuver through these uncharted waters. Their wisdom, professional work, and past experience in YJA, JAINA, and Sangh leadership were invaluable during these unprecedented times. A huge shoutout goes to *Naishadh Shah, Chintan Shah, Seema Jain, and Dipak Doshi* for their help this past year!

JAINA

YJA would like to thank [JAINA](#) for its constant support and guidance. The JAINA EC’s unwavering support of YJA’s leadership team, especially in navigating through the difficult 2020 YJA Convention cancellation process, shows their faith in the youth to be the future leaders of Jainism. The entire YJA membership appreciates the support from JAINA’s leadership team, and the Executive Board is looking forward to further strengthening this relationship.



2019-2020 Executive Board

Co-Chair
Parshva Vakharia

Co-Chair
Vatsal Gandhi

Director of Education
Harshita Jain

Director of Events
Charmi Shah

Director of Finance
Sanjana Jain

Director of Fundraising
Dhara Bhalani

Director of Project Development
Pranay Patni

Director of Publications
Satej Shah

Director of Public Relations
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Mid-Atlantic Regional Coordinator
Aayush Shah

Mid-West Regional Coordinator
Miten Shah

Northeast Regional Coordinator
Pratik Shah

South Regional Coordinator
Rupal Sanghavi

Southeast Regional Coordinator
Mahin Bhavsar

West Regional Coordinator
Bansari Shah



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