



# 2018 YJA Convention Fundraising Packet

**July 5th - July 8th**  
**The Westin O'Hare**  
**Chicago, IL**

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

## **Letter from the 2018 YJA Convention Board**

Jai Jinendra,

Young Jains of America (YJA) is a nonprofit organization that connects Jain youth from across North America, preparing them to become successful leaders.

Since the first YJA Convention in Chicago 27 years ago, attendees have developed lifelong relationships, social, professional, and/or personal. By fostering connections within the Jain community, we have increased the Jain impact on humanity 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 700 young Jains from across the country will unite. They will build a lasting foundation of faith, explore and deepen their understanding of our roots from our peers, leaders, Jain scholars and monks, and a diverse range of guest speakers from within and outside of our community. We 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 their 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 we all want. This convention will focus on reconnecting with the roots of Jainism to help create progressive change within ourselves and the communities around us. Thank you for exploring this packet. Your ongoing support of young Jains in America is deeply appreciated and will help us achieve our shared goal: **Reconnecting with our Roots.**

Sincerely,  
**Your 2018 Young Jains of America Convention Board**

## 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.

## Frequent Events

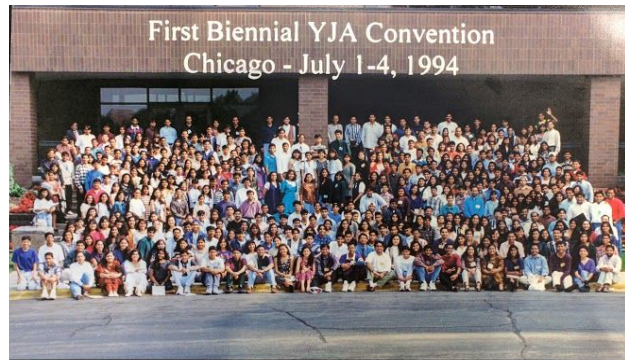
**YJA Pathshala** - YJA Pathshala is an online self-paced course for learning more about Jainism. Intended for youth ages 16-29 who cannot regularly access a traditional pathshala, these materials will provide a basic foundational understanding of Jain principles and practice. Content covered has included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

**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.

**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**



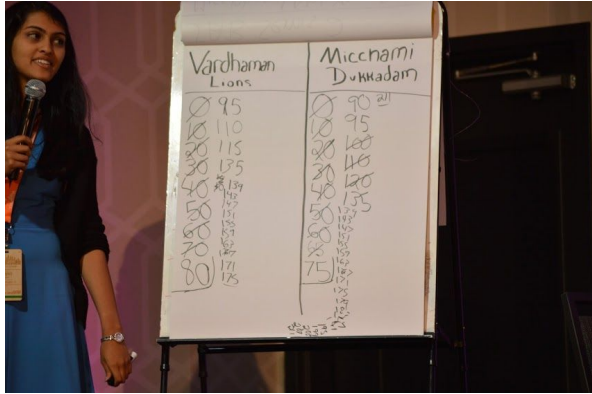
**2016 YJA Convention - Los Angeles, CA**

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.



**Keynote Speakers** - At past Conventions, YJA has hosted a variety of inspirational speakers such as Houston Kraft (*left*; 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".



**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**

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

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

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

### **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. i.e. Posting a sign at the event starting "with blessings from: (insert name here)." Note each highlight is a significant offering. Only one highlight will be offered to each sponsorship group. Available in limited quantities.*

## Donation Form

I would like to contribute to **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 emailed to you at:

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

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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Signature

Date

YJA, under the umbrella of JAINA, is an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) charitable organization EIN 54-1280028



### **2018 YJA Co-Chairs**



Jinen Shah, Dharmi Shah, Siddharth Shah, Chintav Shah

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### **2018 YJA Fundraising Committee**



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