

The Jain Society of Houston (“JSH”) would hold elections for the eight (8) JSH Officers and six (6) Trustee positions. As stated in the JSH Constitution, the EC and BT positions are 2-year and 3-year terms, respectively. Below candidates have submitted their candidature to the JSH Election Committee for respective terms.

The JSH Election Committee

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The Board of Trustees candidates for the 3-year term 2022-2025



Kamlesh Shah is Chief Trustee of JSH from last 3 years and also served in EC/BT for last 6 years. He also served in several other positions and committees of JSH. He has been instrumental in the New Temple and united the samaj. He has also managed several projects in the temple and always played a key role in fundraising. Kamlesh has diversified interests in all aspects of real estate development from residential & commercial projects.

Kamlesh's main focus is to build our new temple and continue to improve JSH infrastructure and unite our samaj. Kamlesh Shah has been managing all the financial investments for our Jain Society of Houston for the last 6 plus years.



Vikram Mehta has been actively involved with the Jain Society of Houston (JSH) since 1994 and has served in multiple roles in the executive committee and currently in the JSH Board of Trustees (BT). Their whole family is involved in various sewa activities. His wife, Aarti Mehta, has been a Jainism Pathshala Teacher for the past 15 years. Both of his children - Harsh Mehta and Pranav Mehta - have held several leadership positions with the Jain Fellowship Youth Group, both serving as JSH Presidents.

If elected, Vikram wants to continue modifying policies and capital expense management to allow for sustainable JSH decisions. Vikram also would like to focus to ensure continually engaging our senior citizens and youth. Additionally, he would like to increase the communication of the EC/BT with the JSH community. In doing so, we will be able to create a more supportive atmosphere for various JSH initiatives (*including the New Temple Project*), also motivating current and upcoming generations (children) to get involved with JSH leadership and related activities. Vikram is motivated to continue to serve another term in the BT to create an environment that is welcoming and promoting Jain values.

The Board of Trustees candidates for the 2-year term 2022-2024



Samir Mehta has served several years as trustee of JSH. He helps in several temple volunteering activities.



Praful B Bora has been a JSH member since 2001 and has been serving in the Executive Committee as Vice President for the last four years. He leads and contributes to multiple JSH projects such as building & trailer maintenance, EC liaison for Pathshala Committee, and Derasar proposal project. He lives in Katy with his wife Smita Bora and kids Yash & Esha. By profession, Praful is a Civil Engineer, working as a Project Executive at Ferrovia Construction where he leads Infrastructure in North America & Europe.

If Praful B Bora is given the opportunity to be part of JSH's Board of Trustees, he would like to dedicate his efforts to working on the new temple project proposal, the new constitution, and making the Houston Sangh stronger for future generations to come.

The Board of Trustees candidates for the 1-year term 2022-2023



Sanjay Shah has been a JSH member for more than 20 years. He has held many roles on various committees including the Executive Committee, Food and most recently Election Committee. He is the go-to person for any small or major fixes around the temple. He deeply enjoys his sewa to JSH and would continue to volunteer in all initiatives including building our new temple.



Urvashi Jain as a member of this community for nearly thirty years, having served as Kitchen Coordinator, Vice President, President, and now as a Pathshala teacher, she has been incredibly fortunate to have witnessed the many facets of JSH from a variety of perspectives. Through her various roles over the years, she has been steadfastly committed to preserving traditions and keeping Jainism as the guiding principle of all her efforts, while simultaneously encouraging JSH to be better and do better.

One of the core responsibilities of BT is to preserve the unity and integrity of the Jain Society of Houston, and that is her number one priority. It is this vision and these skills and experiences that she will bring to the role of a Trustee. Not only will she continue the efforts many Trustees before her have engaged in, but she will leverage her skills and experience from her prior roles to take JSH to new heights. She knows what we as a community are capable of when we come together united, and she knows she can make that happen. She would like to double down on long-term planning and focus on where we want JSH to be in 5-10 years, and make goals according to that. She intends to keep the youth, as the future generation of leaders of our community, as the forefront of her objectives. And most importantly, she intends to keep the unity and integrity of JSH. She recognizes how important of a principle this is, especially from her years on the Executive Committee, and she knows that she can bring people together. She would be honored to be selected to the BT and to steps to make a significant impact in our community.

The Executive Committee candidates for the 2-year term 2022-2024



Jayesh Porwal has served JSH as a volunteer in various capacities: Treasurer (2 Years), Vice President (1 Year) and most recently as President from the last 3 Years. He has added value in terms of setting up several committees and selecting the motivated volunteers to run those committees independently: Guest Committee, Temple committee, Financial Review committee, Cultural committee, New temple related various committees, IT committee, Serving committee etc. Jayesh is in regular touch with Presidents of other Jain centers in North America and JAINA. This enables him to bring new ideas to sangh for the benefit of JSH members. During COVID, we have done several programs virtually and in person to engage our sangh members. Jayesh is an expert in Finance by profession and has been working in Oil & Gas industry in a leadership position for the last 20+ years. Jayesh is instrumental and worked very hard to unite our sangh. Jayesh's primary focus would be to build our new temple as soon as possible with the help of all JSH members. In addition, continuous improvement in JSH infrastructure so that our members feel valued, united, and engaged. I also want to build a good team of motivated volunteers.



Sumit Baid is serving as the Treasurer of JSH & a member of JSH executive committee. Sumit is married to Pragya Jain & they have a 8 year old daughter Aarna & a pet Simba. If elected, Sumit would like to further improve JSH's accounting & treasury related processes in collaboration with the existing team of Joint Treasurer & dedicated volunteers. It would create a measurable impact in financial reporting & donor relationships. He would also continue to improve JSH's financial reporting processes, cyber security in banking, implement newer technologies towards making donation remittance easier for the samaj. Current leadership has truly inspired Sumit to become more involved in our JSH operational activities & to reach out to those who may need us.



Bankim Mehta has been a JSH Life Member since 2007 and currently EC member for the last 2 years. Bankim has been a volunteer ever since he joined JSH. He has volunteered in multiple areas like Food Serving committee, Community building via Cricket. He also volunteered when JAINA came to Houston. Bankim is a leader in one of the largest consulting firms and manages many digitization programs. Bankim would encourage younger members to participate and volunteer. Helping JSH to build a better Temple would be a key priority for him for future generations.



Kalpesh Shah was involved in various JSH initiatives as a volunteer capacity for the past several years. In the last 3 years joined the Executive Committee with additional responsibility to support and manage ongoing JSH events. Involved in improving IT infrastructure for our community such as setting up and managing Surveillance Camera system, several virtual events include live pravachan from Gurudev in India, Mahavir Janam Kalyank Celebration, Live Darshan, and yearly JSH anniversary event. Kalpesh has been working in the IT Industry for the last 20+ years and has been involved in various religious activities from Childhood. Kalpesh wants to focus on the new temple development project and support an ongoing requirement for new development. Further improvement on IT infrastructure wherever possible for benefits of our JSH community.

The Executive Committee candidates for the 1-year term 2022-2023



Jay Mehta is a Chartered Accountant and has been in the US since 2006. He moved to Texas in 2016 with his wife Purvi and kids Vihaan (17) and Rhea (15). Jay has been contributing to the derasar activities as a volunteer since 2016. He also started a club to teach kids the principles of chess. Recently, Jay is also involved in the accounting, finance and treasury activities at the derasar.

As a JSH Officer, Jay hopes to contribute to the duties related to accounting, finance and treasury. Accounting / Finance / Treasury is one of the most important functions at JSH. A donor or a grantor might want to review an organization's budget and financial report before offering large donations or grants. A review of these reports tells them about the organization's financial health and spending habits. It's important that these reports are clear, accurate and timely, which helps to earn trust within and outside the Jain Samaj. Jay would be committed to this objective and ensure the accounts show a true and fair view. Further, he also intends to establish robust internal controls and financial management policies while ensuring that the statutory and regulatory requirements are met in a timely manner. He would hold this position with high esteem and stay committed to accuracy, transparency and timelines.



Chaital Shah has been actively involved in co-ordinating and managing various cultural events at JSH. It included Diwali Pujan, 18 Abhishek, Republic day event, Swapna Ceremony, Kids Talent Show, Tapovan Shibir and various pujans at derasar. All of these events were incredibly successful and we received very good feedback from JSH members.

Chaital would work to inspire and increase the participation and involvement of JSH sangh in these cultural activities to promote our Jain dharma.



Ankit Shah has been an active member of the JSH since 2014. He has been actively involved in various volunteering activities in the Jain society of Houston. Always available to help in various pathshala events, temple events & any volunteering opportunities. Before moving to Houston, Ankit actively volunteered in the Jain society of Detroit. He has been a pharmacist for 19 years.

Ankit wants to focus on increasing the participation in various temple & pathshala activities. His key priority would be to support the new temple project and ensure efficient execution of the overall project.



Abhishek Jain is Chartered Accountant (CA) and working with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in the area of Technology consulting specializing in Finance Transformation. He has been with PwC since 2004. I have worked in India for a few years in Audits & Taxation and later shifted gears into Consulting. Finance has always been my core expertise since the beginning. I have been involved with various volunteering activities at JSH in the past including co-managing the Chess Club (organizing and conducting Chess classes). Currently, I'm holding an EC position at JSH since the beginning of 2021 and serving as a Joint Treasurer.

As an elected member of EC, Abhishek would continue to volunteer towards the well being of the organization with utmost faith & integrity. He would continue to strive to bring in better & improved financial controls, improved approval processes, management/ investment of funds, monitoring of pledges and improved bookkeeping practices (including real time bookkeeping) to ensure timely submission of JSH financials to the General Body. He would support the JC with decisions around the building & construction of the New Temple.