

## Jain Society readies religious ceremonies

Several area residents will be involved in religious ceremonies during Paryushana Parva week, sponsored by the Hindu sect, the Jain Society of Greater Detroit, 10422 Woodlawn, Taylor. The event will continue through Tuesday, Sept. 2.

Planning to participate in this period of fasting, chanting and praying are Mr. and Mrs. Chandrakant Ravi of Rochester, Mr. and Mrs. Laxmichand M. Gogri of Bloomfield Hills, and Mr. and Mrs. Mahendra Doshi and Mr. and Mrs. Arvind Shah of Troy.

The highlight of the celebration, a major one observed yearly, will be the visit of high priest Muni Shree Sushil Kumarji from 6-9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 29 in Wylie Groves High School, 20500 W. 13 Mile, Birmingham.

Because it is important to these Indians to pass on to their children the religion of their homeland, the speaker has reserved the hours from 6-7 p.m. for children only.

His lecture from 7-9 p.m. is titled "The Importance of Religion and Meditation in Our Life."

In his presentation he will employ religious rituals as well as the science and technique of yoga. With 45 years experience in spiritual prac-

tice and study, he is regarded as both saint and scholar. As a professor of literature and philosophy, he has founded several colleges in India.

His main center in this country is the Acharya Sushil Jain Ashram in Staten Island, N.Y. Another is located in Westport, Conn.

The spiritual leader wears white clothing, as well as a white mask to prevent him from swallowing insects. His religion, which in India numbers about 2.8 million adherents, emphasizes equal kindness to all life. It is a vegetarian, pacifist, ascetic sect.

Its followers pray to 24 gods called Thirukharas. Each night during Paryushana Parva week they sit on the floor around figures of their gods, light candles or lights, and chant and pray.

A bhavana (religious talks and singing) will be held at 7 p.m. in several area homes during this event. Participants will gather Wednesday, Aug. 26 in the Ravi residence, 227 Tanglewood, Rochester, and on the following night in the Gogri home, 2182 Brenthaven, Bloomfield Hills.

On Monday, Aug. 31 they will meet in the Shah residence, 5140 Cameron, Troy.

## Area housing cost hikes trail nation

While housing costs continue to increase nationwide, a new report from the National Association of Realtors shows the Detroit area offering bargains compared to most other major centers.

Nationally, monthly principal and interest payments on the average-priced

existing home, financed at prevailing rates in 15 major metro areas, reached \$810 this year. This is a 112 percent gain from the \$382 payment in 1978.

For the Detroit metro area, the equivalent 1981 figure is \$825, about an 83 percent jump from \$342 in 1978. The current figure ranks Detroit

costs below 12 other cities with only Pittsburgh and St. Louis offering lower costs.

HIGHEST monthly principal and interest payment was in San Francisco with \$1,048.

"Home affordability also must consider other factors," said Robert D. Shimmin, president of the Western Wayne Oakland County Board of Realtors (WWOCBR).

"While our overall affordability ranking remains unchanged, we don't compare as well with many other cities in areas such as real estate taxes, utility and hazard insurance costs. Thus, our monthly tax cost of \$187 ranks behind only Boston at \$300 and New York at \$257.

Monthly utility costs of \$101 and haz-

ard insurance costs of \$20 are both halfway in the 15 cities studied.

SHIMMIN SAID the study showed total monthly housing costs in the Detroit area, including these factors, reached \$934. Such costs were highest in San Francisco at \$1,731 and lowest in St. Louis at \$815.

In terms of total housing costs as a percent of average gross family income, Detroit continues to rank at the lower end of the scale at 35.5 percent. San Francisco, at 66 percent, represents the high point, with St. Louis, at 32.8 percent, the lowest.

"The study clearly indicates how a combination of rising prices and high interest rates has made home ownership more difficult, particularly for first-time buyers," he said.

## Precious metals sales law in effect Sept. 10

A law designed to make it difficult to sell gold and silver anonymously will take effect on Sept. 10.

The law was spurred by police reports that last year's soaring gold and silver prices were sending residential burglary rates through the roof. Its sponsor was state Rep. Ruth McNamara, R-Birmingham.

Under the new law, no dealer in scrap precious metals can purchase or receive such goods from anyone convicted of theft or receipt of stolen goods in the last five years. No one under 18 will be able to sell or buy precious metals under the law.

Everyone selling precious metals will have to produce a valid driver's license or state of Michigan ID card and agree to giving a thumbprint.

The dealer is required to provide police with a record of every transaction with 48 hours. The dealer would have to keep a copy of the record at least a year.

First-time conviction of violating the new law is a six-year misdemeanor and carries a maximum \$1,000 fine. Convicted dealers would be barred from returning to the trade for up to a year. Further violations are felonies carrying a two-year maximum term and a \$5,000 fine.

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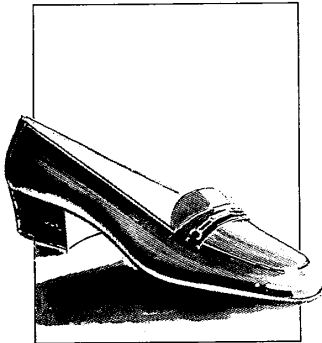
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