

Dalai Lama 2011 – Chicago, July 17th, 2011

Project Website: <http://www.jsmcoffice.org/Members/DalaiLama2011/default.aspx>.

Photos Gallery: <http://jsmc.shutterfly.com/pictures/16560>.

Decorating 8 ft. symbol of Buddhism – an Interfaith Workshop

His Holiness the Dalai Lama visited Chicago during July 2011. During his visit on July 17th, 2011 he gave a public talk on “Bridging the Faith Divide” at University of Illinois, Chicago, Pavilion. About 20,000 people attended his talk. This public talk kicked off with an interfaith outreach presentation where many faiths presented a symbol of different faith/religion to HH Dalai Lama. Along with 9 other religions/faith, Jain Society was invited to participate in building and creating a sculptural object in 6 weeks of workshop and finally to present the symbol during this public talk. JSMC, under leadership of **Vipul Shah** (Interfaith lead, Membership Secretary) build out 9 feet sculpture of Buddhism symbol – “Wheel of Dharma (Dharma Chakra)”. During these workshop many volunteers participated and took an active interest in learning Buddhism. Workshop members had an opportunity to attend the public talk and were provided with complimentary tickets to the event (which otherwise sold for \$25, \$75, and \$125). Details of the event can be found at – www.dalailamachicago.com.

This was a great opportunity to participate and to learn about other religions that can lead to harmony amongst all religions.

The Dharma chakra symbol is represented as a chariot wheel with eight or more spokes. Eight spokes of the wheel represent the Noble Eightfold Path, one of the principal teachings of the Buddha.

1. Right understanding
2. Right intention
3. Right speech
4. Right action
5. Right livelihood
6. Right effort
7. Right mindfulness
8. Right concentration



All eight elements of the Path begin with the word "Right", which denote completion, togetherness, and coherence, and can also suggest the senses of "perfect" or "ideal"

