

Congratulatory Retirement Message For Phyllis Granoff
by Jay Soni, Innsbruck, Austria.

The first time I met Professor Phyllis Granoff was in September 1982 when I was accepted by McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada, to read for a second PhD. Advanced Sanskrit was one of the compulsory courses in the programme. Professor Granoff read several texts with us and she rightly (in hindsight) set a high standard for both quality and quantity. She asked us to prepare up to 40 stanzas a week, a quantum to be reached within four weeks after the beginning of the course. Graduate students should be capable of preparing that quota, she felt. It was indeed impressive to hear her read the Sanskrit, with the proper intonation and at a speed faster than I can read English. She of course grasped the nitty gritty aspects of the language immediately, whereas we had to use our dictionaries and grammar books to explain the several complex constructions and word-forms she expected of us.

After finishing the programme in McMaster in 1987 the friendship with Professor Granoff that gradually developed continued, and I was allowed then to simply call her Phyllis. We met several times over the years after the memorable studentship at McMaster. Phyllis was the editor of the *Journal of Indian Philosophy* and I still appreciate the fact that she accepted articles of mine for it, particularly in the formative stages of my studies in Jaina philosophy. Phyllis encouraged me to delve into the field intensively. She herself, among a range of other expertises, is an authority on Jaina (and Indian) literature and philosophy. It is my pleasure to acknowledge her generous help and guidance and it is an even greater pleasure to feel that, even in her retirement, I can approach her at any time for advice on any academic issue. It has been a wonderful experience to witness and to take advantage in later years of her vast knowledge and intimate acquaintance with numerous languages in the field. It has been for me a unique trajectory from studentship to cherished friendship. All the best, Phyllis, and thank you.