



ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW YORK, INC.

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President: Gev Nentim - **Vice President:** Khurshed Navder - **Secretary:** Behroz Dufia - **Treasurer:** Kerman Dukandar
Jt. Secretary: Keki Dadachanji - **Members at large:** Vispi Kanga, Dinyar Kalwachwala, Pervin Tata Lobo, Ferzin Patel

SECRETARY'S REPORT – APRIL 1, 2008 TO MARCH 21, 2009

As per the By-Laws of ZAGNY, elections were held at the Navroze function on March 22nd, 2008 at the Pomona Darbe Mehr and the new Board took over as of April 2, 2008.

ZAGNY members enjoyed the numerous events and activities that took place throughout the year with the dedicated efforts of our board members and volunteers.

Following are the highlights of the activities for the year 2008-2009:

Religious Classes: ZAGNY as in the past, conducted its monthly children's Religious Classes from September 2007 to June 2008. These classes begin at 1:00 PM on **every first Sunday of each month**. Dr. Lovji Cama and his team of dedicated teachers help educate our youth with our Prophet's teachings and daily prayers in these classes.

Adult Classes: After a brief suspension for the past few years, the Adult classes resumed on November 2, 2008 under the leadership of Dr. Keki Dadachanji. The class is held on the first Sunday of every month at 1:30 PM.

Critical Assistance Fund Raising: ZAGNY's annual fund raising for the Parsi General Hospital was once again hosted by Yasmin and Jamshed Ghadial at their residence on Saturday, **June 28, 2008**. The Udvada fund raiser was held at the Pomona Darbe Mehr on **October 19, 2008** and was hosted by Erach Munshi and Mehru and Lovji Cama. Both these fund raisers generate a good amount of money to assist our fellow zarathushtis and help maintain our Fire temples and Atash-behrams in India. Fund raising was also done by Pam and Fali Shroff for the Nassesalars at the Dungervadi in Mumbai, India.

Revelon Run/Walk for Women: On **Saturday, May 3, 2008**, Captain Sheroo Kanga led our ZAGNY team #1109 for the Annual Run/Walk for women from Times Square to Central Park in NYC. ZAGNY was successful in collecting \$9,393 and proudly did its share to help in the fight to eradicate women's cancers.

Ivy Gandhi Youth Camp: ZAGNY held the annual youth Camp over the Memorial Day weekend from **Friday, May 30th to Sunday June 1, 2008**. The Camp has become a big hit with our kids since our late President, Ivy F. Gandhi started it about 25 years ago.

Ghambhar: At the last religious class day **June 1, 2008**, instead of the usual barbeque, a Ghambhar was hosted by Goolu and Noshir Baria at the Pomona Darbe Mehr beginning with Atash Niyesh prayers, followed by a traditional lunch of Dhansak, chicken and kachumber. Proceeds of \$861 collected at this event were generously donated to ZAGNY's Critical Assistance Fund.

Picnic: The annual ZAGNY picnic was once again held at the Shepherd Lake Recreation Area located in Ringwood State Park, NJ on **Saturday, July 12, 2008**. It was a whole day of fun, food and games enjoyed by both, young and old. The outdoors was a good place to do boating, swimming, playing soccer and cricket and at the same time making new friends.

Muktad Prayers: Prayers for the dear departed souls of our beloved ones were held during the holy Muktad days, from **August 14 to August 16, 2008** at the residences of our community members at various locations. On **Sunday, August 17, 2008**, prayers were performed by our dedicated ZAGNY priests at the Pomona Darbe Mehr and were attended by about 100 community members.



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Patetti Function: Patetti, our Parsi New Year was celebrated on **August 23, 2008** at the Darbe Mehr in Pomona by about 220 people. The highlight of the evening was the entertainment provided by K-Von, a comedian who is half Persian. It was followed by a traditional and delicious parsi dinner of pulav, dar, salli ma mughi, parsi sev and other delectable items. A slide show of the bid placed by ZAGNY for the **North American Zarathushti Congress** was also presented and we are proud to report that ZAGNY has successfully secured the bid for the 2012 Congress to be held in August.

New Year's Eve: ZAGNY joyously ushered in the arrival of 2009 and said good-bye to 2008 at the Pomona Darbe Mehr on **December 31, 2008**. It began with a cocktail hour at 7:00 PM and was followed by a delicious dinner of pulav, dar, patra ni machi and parsi custard. The crowd of about 110 people merrily danced away into the night to the swinging music of our DJ.

ZAGNY's 35th Anniversary: On March 21, 2008 ZAGNY was 35 years old and this milestone was celebrated on **January 24, 2009** at our Pomona Darbe Mehr by about 140 members. We took this opportunity to honor our dedicated tri-state area priests who have selflessly performed prayers for our community; Ervads: Pervez Patel, Darius Antia, Noshirwan Hormuzdiar, Xerxes Antia, Rohinton Madon, Rohinton Dadina, Jehangir Madon, Poruz and Karl Khambatta, Farhad Ranji and Bezan Madon. A history of ZAGNY was presented by Erach Munshi with a parade of past presidents and a slide show of "Glimpses of ZAGNY" was also displayed. Dinner and musical entertainment of Indian film music were enjoyed by all who attended.

Jamshedi –Navroze: ZAGNY and IZA held a Second joint celebration of Navroze on **March 21, 2009** that happened to fall on a Saturday. After a period of 11 years, both groups celebrated it together at the Greek Church in Tenafly with a record breaking crowd of 450 people. A traditional Haft-Sin table was beautifully displayed. IZA President, Shirin Kiamanesh enlightened us all with its significance alongwith picture posters carried out by the kids. Thanks to Air India, ZAGNY successfully auctioned off two airline tickets to raise funds for its Building Fund. A mix of Persian and Indian food was later enjoyed by all, together with the beat of Persian and Indian music. ZAGNY's new **2009 Directory** was also published and made available *free* to ZAGNY members. **ZAGNY's Annual General Meeting** usually held at this event has been postponed to **Sunday, April 5th, 2009** to be held at the Pomona Darbe Mehr at 12:00 PM.

In addition to all of the above, ZAGNY keeps its members and the community well informed via the constantly updated **website and newsletters**. In an effort to "Go Green" and do our share to protect the environment, our first newsletter of 2009 was e-mailed via an e-mail notification to our members and it has been well-received.

ZAGNY also provides financial assistance via **Scholarship Loan** to our youth who is interested in pursuing a career with higher education.

Most of the above activities and events are either free or subsidized for ZAGNY members. ZAGNY will continue to hold these and other exciting events, and at the same time will make every effort to balance it out with traditional and religious activities. However, it takes a tremendous amount of time, effort and funds to bring you these events and activities. Our Board members and Volunteers devote hours of their time and work tirelessly throughout the year to successfully plan and organize these events. All we ask you to do is, become a member, donate what you can, get involved and support ZAGNY, so that it survives for you and your kids!

Respectfully submitted
Behroz Dutia
Secretary

Date: March 23, 2009