

ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW YORK, INC.

Sheroo V. Kanga, Secretary, 147 12th Street, Cresskill, NJ 07626 Tel: (201) 227-1890
Vispi D. Kanga, Joint Secretary, 147 12th Street, Cresskill, NJ 07626 Tel: (201) 227-1890

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1999 – 2002

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ZAGNY NEWSLETTER – JULY 2001

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|---|---|---------|
| • AUGUST 18 TH | MUKTAD PRAYERS | - | - | 1:00 PM |
| • AUGUST 25 TH | PATETI FUNCTION & JASHAN | - | | 5:30 PM |
| • SEPT. 9 TH | GUJARATI CLASS | - | | 1:00 PM |
| | RELIGION CLASS | - | | 2:00 PM |
| • OCT. 7 TH | GUJARATI CLASS | - | | 1:00 PM |
| | RELIGION CLASS | - | | 2:00 PM |
| • OCT. 21 ST | UDVADA AATASHBEHRAM FUND RAISER LUNCHEON | | | |

OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES OF THE DARBE MEHRS:

On June 17, 2001, the Zoroastrians of the New York tri-state area gathered together for an emotional day, saying good-bye to their old home in New Rochelle, NY and celebrating the opening of their new Darbe Mehr in Suffern, NY. Despite the heavy rain, a crowd of over 300 individuals, clothed in traditional dress, attended. They included members of ZAGNY, IZA, and ZAPANJ.

The closing ceremony included a Jashan performed by 10 priests, a tribute to Arbab Rustom Guiv, a speech on the history of the New Rochelle Darbe Mehr, and a poetry reading that captured the sentiment of moving from a home of 25 years.

A group pilgrimage followed to the newly purchased center, also called the Arbab Rustom Guiv Darbe Mehr. Once gathered at the new facility, the priests, organized by Ervad Pervez Patel, performed prayers to bless the congregation and their new temple. The young children, led by Dr. Lovji Cama, recited the Tao Ahmi prayer, and several older youth fronted the procession of the new fire to the prayer room. A luncheon followed thereafter.

Many people worked hard to make this day a huge success! **Our gracious thanks to :**

- Ervads, Darius Antia, Xerxes Antia, Minocher Dadachanji, Noshir Karanjia, Porus Khambatta, Rohinton Madon, Pervez Patel, Meheroz Rabadi, Sam Sethna and Adi Unvala for performing the Jashan Ceremony.
- Everyone who traveled a great distance to participate.
- The volunteers who arranged the clean-up and set-up at both Darbe Mehrs.
- The volunteers who coordinated the programs of the day.
- Kamal Daver & family for catering the food.
- The youth who participated in the day's events.
- Those that coordinated the pictures and video of the ceremonies.
- Every individual who helped make this a reality, through Ashodad donations and hard work

ARBAB RUSTOM GUIV DARBE MEHR
106 Pomona Road, Suffern, NY 10901. Tel: 845-362-2104

DONATIONS:

DONATION IN KIND:

Vispi and Ignasha Cassod	-	Sukhad
Diana Dadachanji	-	Ashofarohar

GENERAL FUND:

United Way Pfizer employees (Rustom Bhopti & Noshir Baria)	-	\$234.78
United Way of Mercer County	-	\$ 50.10
Donations received on the opening day ceremony	-	\$558.00
United Way of Somerset County (Rohinton Madon)	-	\$497.00
Donations through ashodad on the opening ceremony day	-	\$558.00

NEW BUILDING FUND:

Satish and Phiroza Modi	-	\$30,000 (payment of pledged amount)
Rustom and Farangis Bhopti	-	\$ 200 (monthly payments of pledged amount)
Shahvir and Nazneen Vimadalal	-	\$ 101
Gool and Shahrokh Mehta	-	\$ 101
Diana Dadachanji	-	\$ 21
Katayun and Kayomarz Mama	-	\$ 100 (payment towards pledged amount)
Mr and Mrs. Nowroz Bharucha	-	\$ 50
United Way of New York City	-	\$ 23.98

SCHOLARSHIP FUND:

Aysha Ghadiali	-	\$ 153
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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Mehernosh and Tanaz Mistry,
407 Plymouth Colony, Bradford,
CT 06405.

Farida Parakh,
40 Waterside Plaza, #5C,
New York, NY 10010

Murzban Morris,
1081 Lighthouse Avenue, Apt 203,
Pacific Grove, CA 93950

ZAGNY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

ZAGNY invites applications for Financial Assistance (Scholarship/Loan) from its members who are studying in the United States Institutions. Applicants should be full-time students. Preference is given towards undergraduate education. The applications must be received by August 28th, 2001 in order to finalize the recipients at our September meeting.

The application forms and information are to be obtained from scholarship committee chairperson, Mrs. Mahrukh R. Cama, 383 Waltham Ave., Metuchen, NJ 08840. Tel.No. (732) 494-7566, Email: mcama@att.net.

SECOND ZOROASTRIAN UNITY CUP SOCCER GAMES:

The Zoroastrian Sports Committee of FEZANA is extending an open invitation to participate in the second Zoroastrian Soccer to athletes of all ages and genders. Interested youth between the ages of 9-14 can participate in the youth competition, and those 15 and above can compete in the adult teams. ZAC would like to extend a special invitation to female soccer players to break the barriers and come out to show their skills and their spirit. Those interested in cheering our Zoroastrian athletes are also welcome to attend and show their support.

For further information and registration details please contact the committee at zsc@fezana.org or call at 310-219-8811.

CONGRATULATIONS: TO

Tanaz (daughter of Minu and Beroz Dutia) and Michel Reid on their wedding in New York

Binaifer and Farrokh Vesuna on their wedding in New Jersey

To Aysha Ghadiali - Graduating from Boston University Magna Cum Laude, with B.A. in Political Science and History and interning for Democratic National Committee Headquarters in Washington and working on various campaigns in local D.C. and Massachusetts politics. Aysha Ghadiali is leaving for Jordan as a Peace Corps volunteer for a period of two years. Miss Ghadiali modestly informs us that she is one of the few Zarathushti youth to serve as a Peace Corp volunteer.

CONDOLENCES:

To Armaity and Fredy Patel, Arnavaz and Pashang on the death of Armaity's father Mr. Nariman Jalejar Taraporewala in Mumbai, India.

MUKTAD PRAYERS:

On August 18th, 2001, on the third gatha "Spentomad" of Y.Z. year 1370, ZAGNY will observe the holy Muktdad days and will offer prayers at the Suffern Darbe Mehr, starting at 1:00 PM.

Known also by an older name, Fravardegan, the Muktdad are the principal holy days for the remembrance and sacred memory of the souls of our dear departed family members. In consultation with the mobeds of ZAGNY, the Board is inviting the community members to attend the prayers, and those who wish to actively participate may bring flowers with vases, (metal or glass) to be offered on tables that will be placed next to where the prayers will be recited.

Those who would like their loved ones' names to be remembered in the prayers may send two names per family, 10 days in advance to Spenta Cama by calling her at 718-356-4235.

Additional names may be considered at reciting priests' discretion depending upon the total number of names received. Please note, our priests have indicated that only names of Zarthustis can and will be recited at these solemn prayers. A donation of \$2.00 per name, and \$5.00 per person for those attending the function will be charged to cover the costs. Checks to be made out in the name of ZAGNY. If the person remembered was a male, the name of the deceased person's father should also accompany (no last name necessary) and for a female, the name of her husband should be mentioned. All the names should be preceded by Behdin (in case of laity) and Osta, Osti, Khurd or Ervad (in case of members of priestly families). For any clarification or extra information you may feel free to call Ervad Pervez Patel at 718-466-4985.

Traditional lunch of daar chaval, kababs, kachumber, and chicken-sali will be served after the prayers.

PATETI FUNCTION:

The Pateti function will be held on August 25th, 2001 at the Suffern Darbe Mehr. The program will begin with registration at 5:30 PM and Jashan at 6:00 PM followed by dinner and dancing.

To help us coordinate the program in a proper manner, you are requested to please mail in the attached registration form with your payment to Jasmin Kotwal by the due date of August 15, 2001.

CALLING ALL CATERERS:

In an effort to establish an "equal opportunity" and equitable procedure for the catering of the two major ZAGNY functions, the ZAGNY board will once again open up the upcoming Pateti function to bids.

We encourage all interested in catering for the 350+ person affair to contact Temilyn Ghadially at (732) 972-6527, for further information and to receive the bid package which contains the suggested menu and additional requirements.

The deadline for all completed bids is August 15, 2001.

REAL ESTATE DEAL:

Rusi Gandhi has offered the following proposal for any real estate transaction you may have such that one can help Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York. Members of any Zoroastrian organization and/or their families, neighbors and friends who wish to either purchase, sell or rent a commercial or residential property in the US, Canada or any other 52 countries listed, are encouraged to contact Rusi Gandhi about the property in question at 1-800-575-6005, Ext 117. Relevant information can be Faxed to Mr. Gandhi at 973-575-8514 or email rusi@garden.net.

Upon receipt of all relevant information, Mr. Gandhi will put you in direct contact with a competent local Re/Max agent in your area who will offer valuable professional expertise in assisting you with all aspects of the deal. At the time of closing, Mr. Gandhi will send your association a check of 10% of the fees he receives. In the absence of a local Zoroastrian organization, if you prefer a check will be mailed to FEZANA, on your behalf. In the last four years ZAGNY acknowledges the receipt of \$2,210 from Rusi Gandhi.

WZCC GREATER NY MEETING - – JULY 1, 2001:

The NY chapter held a major well-publicized meeting at Fali & Pam Shroff's house on July 1st. In spite of severe thunderstorm & hail warnings, we had about 20 people attend. Thanks to the Shroff's and especially Pam for the Dhan Sak and kind hospitality. Fredy Patel, President of Fezana, also attended.

Edul Daver presented a summary explanation about the WZCC. Transparencies used were discussed with Rohinton before the presentation. It may be worthwhile if the other chapters used the same or similar presentation so that our message is consistent.

Fali Shroff made an excellent presentation on the WZCC website, its function and procedures for using the bulletin board. It's a fantastic versatile site, which can accomplish our objectives and more. The key now is to get membership and everyone to utilize it on a regular basis.

Rusi Gandhi, President of the Greater NY Chapter, then led a discussion on how best to advance the objectives of the chamber locally. The plans are ambitious and enthusiasm evident. He explained the benefits of becoming WZCC members for self employed and working for others.

It was a very positive and constructive meeting. Some of the people had reviewed the Charter on the web site and Lovji Hakim (President of the Darbe Mehr Foundation Trust) was very complimentary of the well thought out document.

There was also a suggestion that the WZCC should take over the function of publishing Zoroastrian Directories locally, nationally and globally. This would give WZCC good exposure.

The next Greater NY Chapter meeting is scheduled for September 22nd at 2:00pm in conjunction with the anticipated in-person Director's Meeting in NY. The meeting will be held at new Darbe Mehr in Pomona. All community members are welcome to attend. If anyone has any questions please call Edul Daver, Rusi Gandhi or Fali Shroff.

DOCUMENTARY: IRANIANS IN U.S. -- interviewees sought

We are in the middle of producing a one-hour documentary about the Iranian community in the United States. We're looking for families with interesting life stories. Ideally, we would like an entire family, (father, mother, two or three children in different age groups and genders) who have the following characteristics:

- left Iran after the revolution
- had a hard time getting out
- found adjusting to their new homeland both attractive and challenging
- the parents feel their children are becoming quite American
- are currently living in Los Angeles or New York
- are Bahai, Muslim, Zoroastrian, or Armenian
- are interesting and compelling people

The chosen families would talk with us on camera in their homes for a couple of hours and we would also shoot them in larger social settings. This is potentially a documentary for PBS, National Broadcast. It's a great opportunity for our community to create dialogue amongst ourselves while becoming visible to a larger American audience.

You can email: nodjoumi@hotmail.com if you know anyone or are interested in participating. Please feel free to pass this email to other Iranians. ----Tanaz Eshaghian and Sara Nodjoumi

MESSAGE FROM ZOROASTRIAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL NETWORK (ZWIN):

THE VACATION VOLUNTEERS - (18-25 years of age) project for 3-4 weeks in January 2002. The airfare and visa will be the responsibility of the visiting youth from the west, but home-stay and hospitality will be provided by host families in India.

ZWIN coordinator Zarin Karani Araoz informs that "There will be a very stimulating educational program planned, as well as opportunities to serve Zoroastrians in India and to visit some of our interesting heritage sites in Gujarat and elsewhere, as well as an opportunity to have fun with young Zoroastrians in Bombay, and share their daily lives. Many of these details need to be finalized, but Mr. Tamboly and his team (including Mr. Sarosh Bana, Mrs. Silloo Kavarana, Zubin Mistry and others) have thought of many things. Mr. Tamboly suggested:

- * The first 10 to 12 days would be at Mumbai, essentially getting a feel of the community, visiting community institutions, mixing with community youth, exchanging ideas and so on.
- * Thereafter, a visit to Gujarat would be organized, starting with a visit to the Memorial column at Sanjan, a hike to the Bahrot caves near Bordi, visit to the Atashbehrams at Udvada, Navsari, Surat; visit a few villages of Gujarat where Parsi farmers live. This will give them a feel of the community living in rural areas and semi urban areas of India. The Gujarat trip would be of around three nights four days or maybe four nights five days.
- * Back to Mumbai, unwind, compare notes, shop, sightsee and fly back home."

Those interested in joining this project, please let Zareen (<zareen@managingcultures.com>) and Farhad Billimoria (<billimor@alphalink.com.au>) know as soon as possible if you, your friends or family might be interested in this exciting opportunity, so we can see whether we should pursue this further. There will be a selection process, but opportunities will also be considered in order of interest received.

ATTENTION MUSICIANS --- PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES:

Based on the success of the Zoroastrian Symphony Orchestra at the Seventh World Zoroastrian Congress in Houston, December 2000, we invite you to be part of the ZSO that will perform at the North American Zoroastrian Congress in Chicago from July 4 - 7, 2002. Professionals as well as amateur musicians of all ages who have attained a sufficient level of proficiency to perform in a symphonic setting are invited to apply. The Orchestra will perform on opening night, the fourth of July, and participating musicians must be in Chicago on the morning of July 3rd for a full day of intensive rehearsals. The repertoire will be chosen by our artistic director, and the music will be sent several months in advance. All participants are expected to have become proficient with the repertoire prior to the conference. If there is a concentration of musicians in a particular metropolitan area, they will be encouraged to have their own sectional rehearsals in advance of the main rehearsals in Chicago.

We invite those who performed in the last concert, and other musicians, to participate in the orchestra as well as perform as soloists. Composers who wish to have their works showcased are also invited to apply; ditto for conductors. Please e-mail your request for an application to cyrusmehta@aol.com. If you have already participated as a member of the ZSO in Houston, sent an application previously, or spoken to one of us about your interest, there is no need to complete another application but please do confirm your intent. The orchestral effort in Houston was very well received and got wonderful reviews in the press. We hope to continue to enhance the standards of the orchestra and enlarge it. Please pass this note on to others who might be wishing to participate.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Sincerely,

Cyrus Mehta, Administrative Director
Farobag Homi Cooper, Artistic Director

(Application is on the back of this page)

Zoroastrian Symphony Orchestra

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone / E-mail: (____) _____ / _____

Instrument(s): _____

Please answer the following on your personal performance history

How many years have you been playing your instrument?

List at least three major works in your repertoire?

Have you played in orchestras or other ensemble settings?

Are you currently performing with an ensemble?

How often do you currently practice?

What is your sight-reading ability?

Any additional information you would like to offer?

Please forward your application to Cyrus Mehta at cyrusmehta@aol.com or by mail to 160 Claremont Avenue, Apartment 2 I, New York, NY 10027. For further information, contact Cyrus Mehta at 212-686-1581 (W) or 212-662-0932 (H).

**DIRECTIONS TO THE NEW DARBE MEHR,
106 POMONA ROAD, SUFFERN, NY 10901:**

Tel. No. 845-362-2104

FROM TAPPAN ZEE BRIDGE (going West)

After crossing the bridge continue on New York State Thruway (I- 87)

- Take Exit for Palisades North (Exit 13N)

*** On Palisades Parkway North take Exit 12 - Make a left at the end of the exit ramp

And again left at the T junction (there is a light), onto Route 45 South

Go through the first light (which is entrance to Palisades South).

Go straight and make right at the next light onto Pomona Road

Go straight for about a mile, you will see Minisiengo Country Club on the right, (large white building)

Darbe Mehr is on the next block on your right (opposite the Middle School on the left hand side).

Park in the Middle School Parking lot and walk across to the Darbe Mehr.

The building is at the end of the driveway and is not visible from the road.

FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE (going West) ;

Preferably take the upper level of GW Bridge, it will lead you straight onto Palisades Parkway. On Palisades Parkway North

take Exit 12 and then follow directions as above (marked with asterisks)

FROM NJ TURNPIKE:

Take Exit 18 on the Turnpike.

After the tolls stay right for the local lanes. - Take Exit 72 for Palisades Parkway.

On Palisades Parkway North take Exit 12 and then follow directions as above (marked with asterisks)

SHEROO V. KANGA
SECRETARY
ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW YORK
147 12TH STREET
CRESSKILL, NJ 07626



