



ISSUE 6

ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW YORK

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Chair, Newsletter Committee: Arnavaz F. Patel

ZAGNY_SECRETARY@LYCOS.COM

Editor: Shazneen Gandhi

ZAGNY ACKNOWLEDGES DARBE MEHR DONORS

SPECIAL INTEREST ARTICLES:

- ✦ NEW ZAGNY WEBSITE
- ✦ FEZANA AT THE UNITED NATIONS
- ✦ ZOROASTRIAN AUTHORS IN THE NEWS
- ✦ PROJECTS IN MEMORY OF 9/11



Gev Nentin unveiling the donor plaque

On October 6, 2002 Town of Ramapo officials and the ZAGNY community gathered at the Darbe Mehr for the unveiling of the Donor Plaque which recognized those who contributed, in various ways, towards the acquisition of the Pomona Darbe Mehr.

The event began with an Opening Prayer which was led by **Ervads Darius Antia** and **Pervez Patel**. The English translations of the Gatha Prayers were read by **Lovji Cama** and **Fali Shroff**. Those in attendance were welcomed by **Gev Nentin**. Mr. Nentin spoke of the many campaigns in the past to find a new home for the Greater New York Zoroastrian community. However, the last project was different because a special body, Z-Land LLC, was formed to collect donations specifically towards this project rather than working with the general community funds. Through Z-Land, the Town of Pomona was selected because it is known to be welcoming to communities of varied dominations.

Various community members made presentations on Zoroastrian history to the audience. Although **Professor Kaikhosrov D. Irani** was unable to be with us, **Mehru Cama** read his speech on *The Vision of Zarathushtra*. **Shirin Kiamanesh** acknowledged the contributions of those who were instrumental in acquiring the Pomona Darbe Mehr, and the initial donation of Mr. & Mrs. Guiv for the New Rochelle Darbe Mehr. She also introduced **Anahaita Kotval** and acknowledged her enormous effort in raising the funds for this project. Ms. Kotval spoke of the historical contributions of Zoroastrians.

To acknowledge the participation of our youth members at the Papeti function, certificates of achievement were presented by ZAGNY Board Members, to **Neville Commissariat** and **Rohan Arcot**, for their outstanding readings of the meaning of Muktdad and the story of Zal and Rudabeh from Shah-Nama.

(Continued on page 7)



HIGHLIGHTS:

Announcements & Donations	2
International Students Program	2
Calendar	3
Halloween Party	4

ANNOUNCEMENTS & DONATIONS

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Ruby and John Norwood

\$60.00



CONGRATULATIONS TO

Natasha Kotwal and *John Roselli* on the occasion of the marriage on September 21st.



CHANGE IN CONTACT INFORMATION

Astad and Behroz Clubwala
25 Peach Tree Court
Hawthorn, NJ 07506
(973) 238-0630

Farobag Homi Cooper
8627 Meadowbrook Drive
Burr Ridge, IL 60527
630.655.8589 (Cooper & Associates Wealth Mgmt)
630.655.8807 (Chicago Performing Artists Series)

Adil & Nina Mistry
C/o Brasil, P. O. Box 9022
Warren, MI 48090-9022



UNITED WAY CONTRIBUTIONS

United Way of America is the national organization dedicated to leading the movement in making measurable impact in every community across America. Why not make your next donation through your employer's United Way program, to ZAGNY?

It's simple! When completing the form provided by your employer, designate ZAGNY as the recipient of the donation. Our tax-id number is 51-0182765. Designate ZAGNY as the recipient of United Way checks. Our address is:

ZAGNY
C/o Treasurer
106 Pomona Road
Suffern, NY 10901

**ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A GARA?
DO YOU NEED SAREE BORDERS?**

**NEW GARA SAREES AND BORDERS ARE
AVAILABLE FOR SALE, RANGING IN PRICE
FROM \$120-\$575. ALSO AVAILABLE ARE
GARA TOPS.**

**PLEASE CONTACT DHUN CHINOY (C/O
MEHRU CAMA) BEFORE OCTOBER 20,
AT 201 569 7359**



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS HOSPITALITY PROGRAM

The Zoroastrian Women's International Network (ZWIN) has launched this Program to assist students who have emigrated to new cultures in establishing Zoroastrian contacts and feeling more at home in their new environments. The Representatives shall reach out to Foreign Student Advisers or Directors of International Offices at the various colleges in an attempt to identify Zoroastrian students who are new in their cities. The Representatives will welcome the students, arrange to introduce them to the Zoroastrian community and facilitate their participation in local Zoroastrian events. ZWIN will create a discussion group on the web for all students so they have a forum to talk with others who have also recently arrived here for their studies.

Mehru Cama and **Usheen Davar** are ZWIN representatives for the New York/New Jersey area students. **Shazneen Gandhi** is the ZWIN representative for New York City. For more information please write to ZWIN at zwin3@yahoogroups.com.



ONE WEEK: TWO MAJOR PARSİ ZOROASTRIAN AUTHORS

Two internationally-acclaimed Parsi Zoroastrian writers – **Bapsi Sidhwa** and **Rohinton Mistry** – appeared in New York during the same week to launch their new books. Sidhwa is Pakistani American and Mistry is Indian Canadian but both write about the Parsi community.

Sidhwa's well-attended event was hosted by the Indocenter of Art & Culture. Sidhwa read from her essay in **To Mend The World: Women Reflect On 9/11**. The piece begins "I am Zoroastrian" – and reflects on history, foreign policy, and national memory. The book which includes essays by other renowned authors is the first collection dedicated to women's perspectives on 9/11.

Rohinton Mistry's huge sold-out event at the Asia Society launched the US publication and first US tour stop of his new novel, **Family Matters** – and coincidentally came the day after Mistry was nominated for the esteemed Booker Prize. Mistry read from, and answered questions about **Family Matters**, a novel about a struggling Parsi family caring for an aging and ailing father. The photograph on the book's cover was taken by **Sooni Taraporevala**. The reading, co-sponsored by the South Asian Journalists Association (SAJA), was extremely well attended by area Zoroastrians – all of whom spoke with a delighted Mistry at the reception afterwards.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



OCTOBER 26th, 2002 HALLOWEEN PARTY



NOVEMBER 2002	DECEMBER 2002
<p>2 <i>IZA Persian Language Classes</i></p> <p>3 <i>ZAGNY Religious Class</i></p> <p>15 <i>Deadline for Projects in Memory of 9/11</i></p>	<p>1 <i>ZAGNY Religious Class Darbe Mehr Anniversary Religious Class Ceremony</i></p> <p>7 <i>IZA Persian Language Classes</i></p> <p>31 <i>TENATIVE - NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION</i></p>



TENTATIVE - NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

ZAGNY's Program Committee is in the process of planning a New Year's Eve function. We need to field your interest. If you are interested in attending this event, please email zagny_secretary@lycos.com by November 4th. Anyone interested in being the Guest DJ for the evening and earning \$350, please contact Usheen Davar at usheen.davar@dowjones.com. **We reserve the right to cancel this function, if less than 100 people show an interest in attending.**

ZEE- SKI DECEMBER 26, 2002 TO JANUARY 1, 2003

If you are between 16 and 35 and haven't made your skiing plans for this season, consider going to the scenic Rocky Mountains of one of Canada's most beautiful National Parks: Banff, Alberta. Not only will you experience the beauty of Banff by skiing, but attendees will also visit Lake Louise, spend an evening at the Banff Hot Springs, visit the Calgary Olympic Park, and tour the City of Calgary, Alberta. Space is limited. The registration deadline is Friday, November 22, 2002. For additional information contact **Sherazade Mehta** at sherazadem@yahoo.com.

PARSI SINGLES OF NORTH AMERICA - DECEMBER 29-31, 2002

PSNA is a club for all single Parsi & Iranian Zoroastrians 21 years of age and over. The goal is to provide an opportunity to make new acquaintances and friendships in a relaxed atmosphere. This year the club is organizing an outing in Las Vegas, Nevada. Participants have the option to meet in Vegas, at a designated hotel or in LA and carpool to Vegas, in rented minivans. On December 30th-31st. 2002, collective day trips to the Lake Mead Recreation area, Hoover Dam and Ethel M's Chocolate Factory & Cactus garden will be organized. For more information, please write to parsisinglesna@msn.com.

PROJECTS IN MEMORY OF 9-11

The Unity of Spirit Act, 2002 (USA) offers Americans an opportunity to remember those lost on September 11, and to respond to the attacks in a positive way by rebuilding communities through volunteer service. To that end, ZAGNY and IZA have registered 3 volunteer activities as official projects:

- A Food/Pantry Drive (Collection of packaged/can goods such as pasta, spaghetti sauce, cereal, soup, canned vegetables and fish etc. Also personal care items such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shaving aids etc.)
- Winter Clothing Drive (warm clothing for all age groups in good condition, blankets etc.)
- Dress for Success Drive (Business attire for men and women that can be worn by individuals transitioning from welfare to self-sufficiency who need to dress up for job interviews.)

Please bring items to the Darbe Mehr or hand them to a friend who will be visiting the Darbe Mehr from **NOW THROUGH NOVEMBER 15**. Place the items in marked collection boxes. For more information please call **Mehru Cama** at (201) 569 -7359 or email at mlcama@nfow.com.



ZAGNY HALLOWEEN PARTY COME JOIN THE FUN !!!!

Date: Saturday October 26, 2002
Time: 6:30 pm-10:30 pm
Place: Arbab Rustam Guiv Darbe Mehr
106 Pomona Road
Suffern, NY 10901
Admission \$5.00 per person (with costume)
\$7.00 per person (without costume)

*Join us for food, games and Halloween fun!!
Come dressed in your favorite scariest, funniest or most original costume.
There will be prizes awarded in each category and age group.*

*To show our good will to our new Pomona Community, please bring
1 canned food item per person to donate to the local homeless shelter / food bank.*

**SEVERAL YOUTH MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO HELP COORDINATE
THE DECORATIONS, GAMES, MUSIC, AND ENTERTAINMENT TO MAKE THIS A FUN EVENING.
PLEASE SHOW YOUR SUPPORT BY ATTENDING.**



PLEASE RSVP BY CONTACTING:

TONI GHADIALLY (732-972-6527) OR SHEROO KANGA (201-227-1890) BY OCTOBER 18TH.

FEZANA AT THE UNITED NATIONS

BY HOMI D. GANDHI

A team of five Zoroastrian youth consisting of **Tenaz Dubash**, **Susan Karani**, **Mitra Mehr**, **Jehan Panthaki**, and **Mehr Pastakia** from Chicago, New York, and Washington DC participated with **Behram Pastakia** and myself at the 55th Annual DPI/NGO Conference entitled "Rebuilding Societies Emerging from Conflict: A Shared Responsibility," held at the United Nations in New York City, on September 9-11, 2002. FEZANA acquired NGO status over 4 years ago. The Conference was attended by more than 700 NGOs with over 2,500 representatives from more than 80 countries.

The Conference was opened by **Shashi Tharoor**, UN Under Secretary-General for Communications & Public Information, and was then addressed by **Han Seung-soo**, President of the 56th Session of the UN General Assembly; **Louise Frechette**, UN Deputy Secretary-General; and **Mary Robinson**, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and a former President of Ireland. **Donald Treimann**, Chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, and **Sherrill Kazan Alvarez de Toledo**, Conference Chair, set the tone of the Conference in their opening remarks by highlighting the role that each of us can play in bringing happiness, peace, and prosperity to our extended human family.

Our team participated in most of the workshops, made many contacts, and even met with some Zoroastrians who work at the UN & its agencies; **Rosy and Jimmy Rustomji** (UNICEF) and **Nosh Nalavala** (UNDP). Behram and I wore Daglis on the first and the last day of the Conference. This opened many opportunities for dialogue with other participants at the Conference who came to us with a desire to know more about our heritage. Some of them were quite surprised to hear that Zoroastrianism was still a living religion, practiced by people in many parts of the world. Among those interested in learning more about us were **Kofi Annan**, UN Secretary General and Shashi Tharoor with whom we exchanged pleasantries at the evening reception. The Federation of World Peace and Love invited us to participate in the ceremony of ringing the Bell of Peace. We were also invited to walk in the procession at the annual Interfaith Service of Commitment to the work of the UN at St. Bartholomew's Church on September 11, 2002. This service was to mark the opening of the 57th Session of the UN General Assembly and a Celebration of Remembrance and

Hope, dedicated to the Victims of Violence Everywhere. Our Mobed **Pervez Patel** performed the Zoroastrian Prayer at the Service.



Homi Gandhi with UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, at the Conference.

This has been a wonderful experience for me. As a "new kid on the block", I learned a lot regarding what we, Zoroastrians, and FEZANA can do in terms of humanitarian work and projects with the UN. We will keep you informed of the projects in which our youth will participate in the future. At this time I can only say that I was very impressed by the work of our team. The enthusiasm of the youth was very infectious and we are learning a lot from each other as we continue to work to put our experience to good use. When such youngsters are in charge of our community's future affairs, I have no fear about the future of our faith. I TRULY BELIEVE THAT IF WE CONTINUE TO HAVE SUCH YOUTH IN OUR COMMUNITY, THE BEST OF OUR COMMUNITY IS YET TO COME!

ERRATA

The Newsletter Committee acknowledges the efforts of Toni Ghadially in organizing the ZAGNY Picnic, with Sheroo Kanga, and for reporting the events of the day to the newsletter.

We apologize for the oversight in acknowledging these contributions in an article about the picnic, which appeared in the September 2002 newsletter.

ZAGNY'S NEW WEBSITE

BY FALI SHROFF

On September 25, 2002, (Roj Tir, Mah Ardibehesht of the Holy Year 1372 Y.Z.), the new ZAGNY website went on-line for the very first time.

Accessible at www.zagny.org, the ZAGNY website is currently evolving and has some menu items under construction. Viewing it using Internet Explorer (version 4 and up) or Netscape (version 4 and up) will provide the best audio-visual experience. You may find several items of interest as you tour the website, including information about the ZAGNY Board and its mission, an archive of ZAGNY newsletters, ZAGNY greeting cards, a calendar of ZAGNY events, various bulletin boards on the Zoroastrian religion, Parsi and Iranian recipes, and a guest book, in which we invite you to write your comments. Some of the more popularly demanded items are explained in greater detail below.

The **GREETING CARD** link provides a wide array of greeting cards for sixteen occasions. Greeting cards with Zarathushti themes will be available soon. The cards can be sent to multiple recipients at one time. The website offers a wide variety of musical selections and a multitude of great special effects like waves, ripples, snow, fireworks, etc. which may be included with the cards. Viewing the "Java Card Demo" will allow you to explore the magic of greeting cards!

The **PERPETUAL ZAGNY CALENDAR** will allow you to view all ZAGNY sponsored functions and events. The Calendar can be customized in various formats to suit your interests. If you wish to enter an event/function into the Calendar, please email the webmaster at fali_shroff@zagny.org. After consideration by the Board, the event may be added on the Calendar.

The website also offers ten **ZAGNY BULLETIN BOARDS**. These include: Board's Bulletin, Members Bulletin, Business Help, Jobs Help, Family Help, Donation Help, Condolence Help, Urgent Help, General Help, and Medical Help. While we welcome all entries on these bulletin boards, we request that they be limited to about two paragraphs of about four lines each. Each entry will remain on-line for 12 weeks after which it shall be purged. Since space on the web is expensive, any entry violating the limits will be deleted.

The **Z-RELIGION** web-page currently contains our Avestan prayers. In the coming months, we will add other items pertaining to the Zoroastrian Religion in this space.

The **Z-RECIPES** web-page provides recipes for mouth watering Parsi and Iranian dishes. Although we already have some recipes from ZAGNY's Sheroo Kanga, we welcome more submissions.

In addition, you can access Search Engines, Weather Info, Yahoo (Customize My Yahoo as well), Maps Directions, News Portal, Email Sites (currently Hotmail and Yahoo), World-Wide Links, and Humor/Jokes from the ZAGNY website. Send us your email and ISP and we will incorporate them into our ZAGNY Website. Check out our News Portal where you can customize your News as well as Stocks, Horoscopes, Sports etc.

Finally, at the end of your tour please remember to tell us your impressions by signing in the ZAGNY **GUEST BOOK**. Please remember to sign your entries as anonymous entries will be deleted.

We hope you enjoy your tour!

Editor's Note: The ZAGNY website is the product of the hard work of Fali Shroff. Our community thanks him for his efforts.

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS ON THE ZAGNY WEBSITE.

OUR BANNER ADS WILL PROVIDE A LIVE LINK TO YOUR BUSINESS'S WEBSITE.
CONTACT WEBMASTER FALI NOW or VIEW THE WEBSITE!!!!

MAIN PAGE	\$ 300/year
NEWSLETTER PAGE	\$ 250/year
Z-RELIGION PAGE	\$ 200/year
ANY OTHER PAGE	\$ 150/year

DONORS ACKNOWLEDGED

(Continued from page 1)

The historical presentation on Zoroastrianism was closed with an audio – visual presentation developed by Mr. Shroff which provided a pictorial history of the Persian Empire while Iranian music played in the background. The effort it took to develop this presentation was well appreciated by the crowd who clapped along with the traditional music.

Toos Daruvala reflected on the collective achievements of the ZAGNY community in acquiring the Darbe Mehr property; once the Pomona property was found, there were only 30 days to raise \$1,200,000 USD. The property offered the flexibility and potential to evolve. The goal was met and surpassed because the community mobilized behind this effort. The fundraising goal was supported by donations of money and time, made by 150 families, numerous youth members and Zoroastrians living outside the tri-state area. Also, funds were raised by means of a penny jars and silent auctions.

The efforts of the following individuals deserve special mention:

- 🌿 **Homi and Ellen Byramji** for the single largest donation from the tri-state community;
- 🌿 **Gev Nentin** for providing balanced and thoughtful leadership during the process;
- 🌿 **Members of Z-Land** for being early visionary donors;
- 🌿 **Mehrban Zarthosti**, the single largest donor from outside the tri-state area;
- 🌿 **Zubeen Shroff** for his commitment as co-chair of the fundraising effort;
- 🌿 **Anahaita Kotval, Jasmin Kotwal and Mehru Cama** for the time and effort for this project;
- 🌿 The **community at large** because of the legacy we have left for our children and grandchildren.

The Town Clerk of Pomona, **Chris Sampson**, welcomed ZAGNY to the Town of Pomona. **Homi Gandhi** then invited the crowd to view the unveiling of the plaque by Mr. Nentin.

We appreciate the enormous amount of effort from so many to meet the challenge of obtaining our new home. Similarly, we acknowledge the work of those that organized and contributed towards the Open House event. The community should be proud of these achievements.

AREA YOUTH GET TOGETHER

On, October 5, 2002, 40 young adults from the tri-state Zoroastrian community gathered together at the Sky Lounge located in our member Anita Langrana's apartment building. It was a great opportunity to meet new people, socialize, and hang out in an informal environment. Thanks to **Usheen Davar** and **Anita Langrana** for organizing this event.

If you are interested in attending future events for Young Zoroastrian Adults (ages approximately 20-40), please contact Usheen Davar at usheen.davar@dowjones.com to get on the E-mail list. This group meets every two months. Non-Zoroastrians are welcome.

ZOROASTRIAN FAMILY TAKES PART IN INTERFAITH SERVICE

On September 11, 2002, Lovji Cama represented the Zoroastrian religion at an interfaith service called "Remembering and Rebuilding: Sharing Memory and Hope as People of Faith". The service was held in Tenafly, New Jersey to honor the victims of a year ago.

The service had three parts including remembrance and mourning, acceptance and healing and finally, hope. Fifteen individuals representing different religions and denominations marched in procession to begin the service. Four individuals representing Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Zoroastrian religions lit a candle of Hope and Peace. This was followed by readings from sacred texts. Mr. Cama recited the *Kemna Mazda* prayer, and translated it in English for the benefit of other participants in the service. Mr. Cama chose to recite *Kemna Mazda* because it teaches Zoroastrians how to deal with evil.

We thank the Cama family for its dedication to creating awareness of Zoroastrianism and building bridges with other communities by participating in interfaith activities.

This newsletter will be made public on the ZAGNY web-site. If you do not want personal information to appear on the website, please do not submit it to the newsletter for publication.



ZAGNY
106 Pomona Road
Suffern, NY 10901

E-Mail
zagny_secretary@lycos.com

Phone
845.362.2104
Fax:
201.670.6763

In this area, printer will insert artwork.

ZAGNY
106 Pomona Rd.
Suffern, NY 10901

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
SEE US AT:
WWW.ZAGNY.ORG

**Zoroastrian
Association of
Greater New York.**