



ISSUE 7

ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW YORK

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Chair, Newsletter Committee: Arnavaz F. Patel

Editor: Shazneen Rabadi Gandhi

ZAGNY_SECRETARY@LYCOS.COM

SPECIAL INTEREST ARTICLES:

- ✦ GOOD LIFE PROGRAM
- ✦ UDVADA FUNDRAISER
- ✦ RACIAL PROFILING PROTEST
- ✦ AYESHA NARIMAN
- ✦ HALLOWEEN PARTY
- ✦ FASHION WEEK MODELS



HIGHLIGHTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DONATIONS	2
KOLAH UPDATE	2
2003 MEMBERSHIP	2
NEWSLETTER VIA THE WEB	2
CALENDAR	3

FORMATION OF AN INTERMARRIED ZARATHUSTHI GROUP

We live in an open secular society where a good percentage of Zarathushtis have intermarried. Many of these intermarried couples have shown a willingness to continue practicing the faith and participating in ZAGNY community activities. However, many others have gradually weaned away from community activities and some have even lost all contact with other Zarathushtis.

Times have changed and several other religious organizations have successfully instituted interfaith groups to keep intermarried couples and their children in the community. Thus, ZAGNY announces the formation of an Intermarried Zarathushti group.

The goal of the intermarried group is to facilitate a dialogue in an open forum with a focus on forming friendships and on building community. The group will meet once a month at the Darbe-Mehr for an open discussion and exchange of views on social, cultural and religious issues that affect the participants. This will be done with respect and with an aim towards developing a greater understanding of other faiths and cultures.

Our hope is to build bridges of understanding and encourage these couples to get more involved in community activities. The program and activities can be self-directed by the group themselves to create a fun and friendly atmosphere. Group discussions will be facilitated with leadership participation from intermarried couples who are already

active in the community. As we learn more about their needs, ZAGNY can then provide other guidance and support programs for the couples who choose to raise their children in the Zarathushti faith.

An invitation letter with a survey will be sent out soon to the intermarried couples who are listed in the ZAGNY directory to learn more about their interests and forming a program to their liking.

We want your support in 3 ways:

- 1) If you are intermarried please send us your comments, encouragement and suggestions.
- 2) If you know of any intermarried Zarathushti couples who are not listed in the directory, please send us their contact information.
- 3) The success of this program depends on the encouragement from family and friends to encourage participation in this program, so please encourage your intermarried family members to participate.

For additional details, please contact, **Viraf Ghadially** at vghad@hotmail.com or **Fali D. Shroff** at fali_shroff@zagny.org or fali_shroff@hotmail.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & DONATIONS



CONGRATULATIONS TO

Spenta Cama and Adam Schneck on the birth of their son, Feroze Adam, on October 14, 2002.



OUR CONDOLENCES TO

Noshir Baria and family on the loss of their beloved mother and grandmother, Pillamai, on October 11, 2002, in Winnipeg, Canada.

Astad and Kaika Clubwala and their families on the passing of their dear father and grandfather, Jehangir on October 26, 2002, in Madras, India.



DONATIONS

GENERAL FUND	
Nariman Deboo	\$51.00



UNITED WAY CONTRIBUTIONS

United Way of America is a national organization dedicated to leading the movement in making measurable impact in every community across America. 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



SCHLOARSHIPS AVAILABLE

SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) is offering a number of scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000 to high school seniors (US citizenship required) who intend to secure admission in an accredited college for an engineering or related science program. Applications will be accepted between September 1, 2002 and December 1, 2002. Visit www.sae.org/students/studschol.htm for more information.



VIDEOS OF NORTH AMERICAN CONGRESS 2002 AVAILABLE

VHS Tapes for the North American Congress 2002 held in Chicago are now available! The Entertainment Tape is \$25 and includes footage of the Zoroastrian Symphony Orchestra, Z-Apollo and Game Show. There is also a tape of the Ceremonies available for \$25, including the Opening Ceremony and FEZANA Awards. You may purchase both tapes for \$40. To order the videos, contact Arnavaz Sethna at ahsethna@yahoo.com.



ZAGNY MEMBERSHIP 2003

ZAGNY membership runs from January 1st through December 31st. As always, membership must be paid in January. In the past, members paid at the time of the Navroze function in March. This has created some problems, and the Bard urges you to please renew your membership in January. At the end of November, the membership form shall be mailed to you separately. Please complete the form in its entirety and mail it back with your check to the Treasurer.

It is important to maintain an accurate database of member names and addresses, so please do take a minute to complete the form. We are striving to avoid errors and your assistance in this regard, by submitting your form by January, is much appreciated.



ZAGNY NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE VIA EMAIL

Would you like to receive the ZAGNY newsletter sooner? Would you like to be able to access the newsletter from wherever you are?

You can now sign up to receive the ZAGNY newsletter via email. Just send an e-mail to zagny_secretary@lycos.com.



NAZNEEN KOLAH'S PROGRESS

Jasmine and Aspi Kolah came to NYC, with their daughter Nazneen, on October 27, 2002. Nazneen has a rare cancer of the nervous system that affects approximately 600 children in the US every year. She has previously undergone chemotherapy treatment and one unsuccessful surgery.

Usheen and Ushtavaity Davar met the Kolah family at their temporary residence, the Ronald McDonald House. Nazneen is much like any other child meeting 2 strangers; a bit shy, but adorable. On Friday, November 1, 2002, brave Nazneen underwent a 7 hour surgery to remove a tumor.

The Kolah's have asked the Davars to convey their heartfelt gratitude to all those that have lent them a hand over the past few months. "It is heartwarming for to see a smile on the parents' faces, when a few days ago they were so stricken with anxiety," the Davar sister's said.


Nazneen and her family will most likely return to Helsinki at the end of November so that she can continue with her chemotherapy treatments. Until then, they will be at the Ronald McDonald House, where Nazneen will be recovering and undergoing outpatient services and follow-ups.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

DECEMBER 2002	JANUARY 2002
<p>1 ZAGNY Religious Classes Darbe Mehr Anniversary Religious Class Ceremony</p> <p>7 IZA Persian Language Classes</p> <p>31 NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION (form enclosed)</p>	<p>4 IZA Persian Language Classes</p> <p>5 ZAGNY Religious Classes</p>
<p>UPCOMING EVENTS: FEBRUARY 1 - Persian Language Classes FEBRUARY 2 - ZAGNY Religious Classes FEBRUARY 9 (23RD IS THE SNOW DATE) - WZCC – Long Term Care Insurance Seminar APRIL 19 - Rituals Past, Present and Future Seminar</p>	

 **NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY**

ZAGNY's Program Committee is planning a New Year's Eve Celebration! To join us, please complete the registration form (page 7) by December 20, 2002. ZAGNY's own **Rushad Dutia** will be the Guest DJ for the evening.

 **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. 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 (PSNA) - 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 has organized 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.

 **WZCC - LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE SEMINAR**

ZAGNY and IZA and WZCC will co-sponsor an informational seminar on Long Term Care Insurance for its members and their guests, at the Darbe Mehr, on February 9, 2002 (snow date February 23, 2002). The seminar on this topic of keen interest will be presented by **Albert Shikiar**, President, AccessCare, Inc. and hosted by **Arnaz Maneckshana**, Financial Consultant, AXA Advisors, LLC.

Lunch will be served at 12 noon, followed by the presentation. Seating is limited. Your early RSVP is appreciated. Please call Arnaz Maneckshana at (201) 712-4615.

 **RITUALS PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE SEMINAR -APRIL 19, 2003 IN TORONTO**

The North American Mobed Council and FEZANA are sponsoring a seminar. Subjects ranging from history, practice, understanding, and the future of Zarathushti Rituals will be the focus of this unique seminar. The views of Zarathushti clergies and the community alike on the bearing of the inner and outer liturgical rituals on the perpetuation of the religion in North America will be discussed.

The Council appeals to all North American Zarathushtis and Associations to extend their generosity to support their efforts. Donations towards this seminar will be publicly acknowledged, if it is over a \$100.00 CDN. Please send your contribution checks to: Ervad Gev Karkaria, 38, Brome Street, Kirkland, QUE, H9J 2N3, CANADA, payable to NAMC and marked Ritual Symposium. For additional information and the registration form, please go to <http://www.persiandna.com/namc>

GOOD LIFE EMBLEM

BY: HOMI GANDHI

The Good Life Zoroastrian Emblem is administered by the "Good Life" Religious Emblem Administrative Council of the Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York (ZAGNY). The following are the members of the Administrative Council.

Framroze K. Patel, Chairman

Lovji D. Cama, Dean of Zoroastrian Religious Studies, ZAGNY

Kaikhosrov D. Irani, Advisor

Homi D. Gandhi, President, ZAGNY

Temilyn Ghadijally, National Coordinator

All communication about the program should be sent to Temilyn Ghadijally, 12 Rockwell Circle, Marlboro, NJ 07746 Tel: 732-972-6527; tghad@hotmail.com

Persons desiring to achieve this emblem must request an enrollment form from, and return it to, Temilyn Ghadijally at the above address with a check of \$12.50 payable to "ZAGNY-Good Life Program". This amount covers the cost of two books, the emblem (if the Program requirements are fulfilled), and postage. The books will be mailed on receipt of the completed enrollment form and the amount of \$12.50. Once the Program is completed, the Administrative Council will mail the Good Life Emblem after the approval of the application.

It has become a practice to award the medals at the festival functions like Navroze & New Year. This gives the individual recipient recognition before the community. However, all associations and participants must give adequate time to the National Coordinator & the Administrative Council for completing your requests for forms, applications and review of materials, in time for the presentation, at the function. It will take approximately 4 weeks for an application to be reviewed.



UDVADA FUNDRAISING LUNCHEON

On Sunday, October 20, 2002, the 17th Annual Luncheon in honor of Udvada Atashbehrām (Pak Iranshah) was held at the Darbe Mehr

The luncheon started with a prayer ceremony led by Ervads **Pervez Patel** and **Meheroz Rabadi** and a brief message from **Erach Munchi**.

For the past 18 years, ZAGNY and other sister Zoroastrian Associations have steadfastly given financial support for the upkeep of the Atashbehrāms and Agiaries, and for the amelioration of the sick, the needy and the indigent. Due to genuine support from our North American Zoroastrian Associations, we have been able to grow the donation pool from \$2,916 in 1984 to \$27,400 in the year 2001. We thank you for your contributions.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated and encouraged. If you wish to donate for your chosen Atashbehrām and/or Agiaries anywhere in India, please send donations to ZAGNY for Udvada Atashbehrām Fund and instruct us if you have specifications.

Thanks go out to Erach Munchi, **Piloo Bharucha**, and **Mehru** and **Lovji Cama** for spearheading this initiative every year and to **Kamal Davar** for preparing the food for this luncheon.

Religion Education Scholarship

The Moobed Faridoon Zardoshty Scholarships will be awarded to selected Zarathushti individuals for higher studies and research in the Zarathushti religion at a recognized institution of higher education anywhere in the world.

All interested Zarathushti individuals can request an application for scholarship by providing their contact information, including an email and phone number to the Chair of FEZANA Religion Education Committee, Kayomarsh P. Mehta, 8122 Circle Drive, Palos Hills, IL 60465, U.S.A.; Email: kayomehta@aol.com; Tel.: (708) 974-1238

The deadline for receiving the completed applications with all attachments is January 31, 2003. For further information, visit the FEZANA website www.fezana.org.

MISTRY PROTESTS RACIAL PROFILING



Zoroastrian author **Rohinton Mistry** has cancelled the second leg of his American tour which included appearances in various American cities including Chicago, Boston, San Francisco and Salt Lake City. Mr. Mistry cited being searched at every American airport through which he and his wife,

Freny, traveled as the reason for the cancellation.

"I don't find this is the random check that they talk about, not when they happen to have it at every single stop, every single airport... and when it keeps happening every single time, you get into this convoluted logic, trying to convince yourself about why it's happening. 'Perhaps it's something about my beard, maybe I should change my beard'. Mr. Mistry characterized this train of thought as "trying to appease a bad policy".

Many travelers of Middle Eastern and South Asian descent have complained in the past year of being subjected by U.S. authorities to overly rigorous security and possible "racial profiling". Mr. Mistry expressed sympathy for these persons: "I have the luxury of canceling and not going, but there are others who, for various reasons, are condemned to endure this because they... don't have a choice." Mr. Mistry's protest comes on the heels of similar criticism by members of the Canadian government.

Source: *The Toronto Star*, November 3, 2002
www.torontostar.com

THE PULSE OF THE COMMUNITY

Reaction among members of the North America Zoroastrian community to Mr. Mistry's announcement was varied. Some thought Mr. Mistry should have taken the searches in stride, others commended him for taking a stand, and still others implied it was little more than a publicity stunt. Where do you stand? What are your views on Mr. Mistry's decision or on racial profiling at airports? Send your comments to zagny_secretary@lycos.com.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CHALLENGER

Ayesha Nariman, the first Zarathushti to run for the US Congress lost the election on November 6, 2002 to two term incumbent Republican **Tom Reynolds**. But Ms. Nariman's race may still be considered a victory. One of three other candidates who ran against an incumbent in a heavily Republican Congressional District (almost 3 registered GOP voters for every 1 democrat). Ms. Nariman still convinced 22% of the voters in her District to vote for her.

Among other challenges Ms. Nariman faced, she received no support - financial or otherwise - from her party. Her largest campaign contribution was a \$500 check she got from someone in Gramercy Park, New York. While Mr. Reynolds spent \$10,000 a day for the campaign, Ms. Nariman ran on a campaign budget of a few thousand dollars, a campaign staff of one and no campaign headquarters other than her own office.

But the challenger, after whose grand-uncle Bombay's Nariman Point takes its name, is unfazed. "Politics here is mostly about money," she says, reeling off views on everything from social security to middle-east policy. "But I am running on ideas." Ms. Nariman believes that the Congressional race is just another lesson in her political schooling.

Congratulations to Ayesha Nariman for running when no one else was willing to and for agreeing to do it again!



HALLOWEEN 2002

BY: TONI GHADIALLY

On October 26, 2002, the Darbe Mehr was a festive meeting ground for 15 ghouls, goblins and fun-loving creatures of the night. Our numbers totaled 35, including adults. The crowd was small but the fun was immense!



Our teen organizers, **Sheri Nentin**, **Persis Commissariat** and **Rushad Dutia** did a terrific job of entertaining the group with contests and games. The fun included apple and pudding eating contests, and lively rounds of hot potato and musical chairs. There were so many original costumes in the contest that it was difficult to pick the winners. Prizes were given for the funniest, scariest and most original costumes. As always, the breaking of the Pinata was the highlight of the evening. Candy was flying everywhere! All filled their goody bags to capacity.



The kids also had a grand time decorating their own cupcakes with gummy worms and various candy toppings.



Many thanks to everyone who helped make this party a success. **Sheroo Kanga**, **Aban Nentin**, **Mahrukh Commissariat** and **Toni Ghadially** provided a delicious dinner and **Tehnaz Bamji**, **Arnaz Dotivala**, and **Anahita Kotval-Shroff** tempted our tummies with yummy desserts. The lively contribution of **Viraf Ghadially** added to the excitement of the kids, making this a fun-filled night. A special thank you to everyone who brought canned goods to donate to the local shelter/food bank.

Next year we look forward to having an even better turnout. Hope you can join us.

Editor's Note: The Halloween Party is the product of the hard work of Toni Ghadially. Our community thanks her for her efforts.

FASHION WEEK MODELS

BY: USHEEN DAVAR



On Saturday September 21, 2002, ZAGNY members **Jennifer Sethna**, **Ushtavaity Davar** and **Usheen Davar** participated in New York's Fashion Week. The private trunk show was held at the Indian Embassy where India's top designers, **Vivek Narang** and **Tarun Tahiliani** dressed the models in their Spring 2003 fashions.

As the models walked the runway, Press from various news stations and print publications were present to photograph them, conduct interviews, and get a glimpse of the latest designs for 2003. Thanks goes out to **Spenta Bharda** for organizing this opportunity for our three ZAGNY members.





DECEMBER 31st 2002



The Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York cordially invites you to

Celebrate the New Year's Eve, December 31, 2002
At the Darbe Mehr - Suffern, NY

Featuring
Cash bar, Hors D'oeuvres, GREAT INDIAN CUISINE & Music by DJ RUSHAD

Bring your family and friends! Make this a special evening!

8.00 PM Cocktails, 9:30 PM Dinner

REGISTRATION		NUMBER	AMOUNT
ADULTS	- \$25.00	_____	_____
NON-MEMBERS	\$35.00	_____	_____
STUDENTS (up to 18)	\$15.00	_____	_____
SENIOR CITIZENS	\$15.00	_____	_____
DONATIONS:		_____	_____
	TOTAL:	_____	_____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TEL. NO. HOME: _____ BUSINESS: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

*Reservations must be received by December 20, 2002. Reservations will be non-refundable.
A SURCHARGE will apply to at the gate registrations and calls received within 72 hours of the function:
\$15.00 per person and \$25.00 per family.*



ZAGNY
106 Pomona Road
Suffern, NY 10901

E-Mail
zagny_secretary@lycos.com

Phone
845.362.2104
Fax:
201.670.6763

In this area, our printer inserted the 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.***