



ISSUE 8

ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW YORK

JANUARY 2003 NEWSLETTER

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WZCC SEMINAR ON LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE

ZAGNY, 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, Incorporated and hosted by **Arnaz Maneckshana**, an AXA Advisors, LLC., Financial Consultant.

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.**

This seminar has been designed to provide you with a better understanding of Long Term Care Insurance.

This type of insurance provides security and peace of mind for all levels of long term care services in your home or in a facility. For example,

- ✦ Nursing facility
- ✦ Assisted living facility
- ✦ Adult day care
- ✦ Home health care
- ✦ Hospice program

It's superior coverage offered through reputable insurers specializing in long-term care protection.

ZAGNY MEMBERSHIP 2003 IS DUE

ZAGNY membership runs from January 1st through December 31st. As always, your membership should 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 Board urges you to please renew your membership in January. At the end of November, the membership form was mailed to you, as a separate mailing.



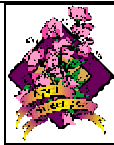
It is important to maintain an accurate database of member names and addresses, so please do take a minute to complete the form.

We are striving to avoid errors and your assistance in this regard, by submitting your form before February, is much appreciated.

For your convenience, the 2003 membership form is available on page 7 of this newsletter and it is also downloadable from the ZAGNY website, www.zagny.org.

If you have not already done so, please return the form; with your membership check to **Jasmin Kotwal**, 12 Park Hill Terrace, Princeton Junction, NJ 08550.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

 <p style="text-align: center;">JANUARY 2003</p> <p>20 REMINDER – mail in ZAGNY membership form</p> <p>29 REMINDER – deadline for ZAGNY Phone Directory Cover Contest (see page 4 for details)</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> <p style="text-align: center;">FEBRUARY 2003</p> <p>1 IZA Persian Language Classes and SADEH Celebration (see below for details)</p> <p>2 ZAGNY Religious Classes</p> <p>9 WZCC – Long Term Care Insurance Seminar (23RD IS THE SNOW DATE – REFER TO PAGE 1 FOR INFORMATION)</p>
 <p style="text-align: center;">MARCH 2003</p> <p>1 IZA Persian Language Classes</p> <p>2 ZAGNY Religious Classes</p> <p>22 Navroze Function</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">APRIL 2003</p> <p>5 IZA Persian Language Classes</p> <p>6 ZAGNY Religious Classes</p> <p>19 - 23 Rituals Past, Present and Future Seminar</p>

✳ **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>

✳ **IZA CELEBRATES SADEH**

Come and join Iranian Zoroastrian Association (IZA) to celebrate the "Sadeh" function on Saturday, February 1st, 2003, at 5PM. The program includes; jashan, niyayesh and an explanation of Sadeh's meaning by Mobed Noshir Hormuzdyar; performance of youth attending Persian class; celebrating Sadeh's fire; live music by Zoroastrian singer, Shahrokh Vafa; and dinner and desert.

Tickets are \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. Please contact **Shirin Kiamanesh** by Wednesday January 28th for reservation at 631-385-8471.

✳ **HMMM... HMMM... GOOD - CALLING ALL CATERERS**

The ZAGNY board is requesting bids for catering of the Navroze function, which will be held on March 22, 2003. We encourage all interested in providing Indian food with a predominance of Parsi flavor for this 300+ person affair to contact **Cyrus Hirjibehedin**, by phone at 212-663-5768 or by email to cfh6@columbia.edu for further information and to receive the bid package, which contains the requirements. Preference in the selection process will be given to ZAGNY members. The deadline for submitting a completed bid is February 7, 2003.

PROMOTING & PERPETUATING UDVADA AS CULTURAL & HERITAGE CENTRE

At a meeting held at Ahmedabad in January 2002 during the 'Foundation Stone' laying ceremony of the Institute of Hotel Management, Honorable Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Narendra Modi and Honorable Minister (Tourism & Culture), Government of India, Shri Jagmohan who were both present, acknowledged the positive role of Parsis in nation building, ever since their arrival from Persia over 1300 years ago.

Honorable Chief Minister of Gujarat mentioned that the most sacred religious place of Parsis was Udvada, where the holy fire – Iranshah – was perpetually maintained. Honorable Chief Minister of Gujarat appreciated that ever since the Parsis arrived as migrants they had abided by a code of conduct which preserved their identity without offending the sensitivities of any other community.

Honorable Chief Minister of Gujarat was of the view that Udvada today showcases the glorious history of the Parsi community of over 1300 years. Honorable Chief Minister of Gujarat made a suggestion to Honorable Minister (Tourism & Culture), Government of India, to project Udvada as a place of harmony, religious tolerance and opportunities provided to a miniscule community to realize their full potential. This was appreciated by Honorable Minister (Tourism & Culture), Government of India who held that Udvada symbolized one of the finest examples of the cultural tradition of our country.

A proposal was thereafter submitted to the Government of India for providing certain basic facilities, which would enable the State of Gujarat to project Udvada as a unique place in our country symbolizing traditions of tolerance, harmony and progress through partnership with the Parsi community

The Government of India has accepted this proposal and released a grant-in-aid amount of Rs. 97.27 Lakhs to the Government of Gujarat. The Government of Gujarat has also allocated an amount of Rs. 24.32 Lakhs for the project making a total of Rs. 121.59 Lakhs.

It was the recommendation of the Government of Gujarat that the project should initially encompass the following areas:

- ✦ Establishing a Museum & Cultural Centre at Udvada.
- ✦ Establishing a Tourist Lodge cum Reception Centre at Udvada.
- ✦ Establishing a Heritage Walk at Udvada.

- ✦ Organizing an annual festival of Parsis at Udvada, where Parsis from all parts of the world could congregate.
- ✦ Organizing a tourist circuit of the places where the holy fire – Iranshah – was lodged prior to installation at Udvada.

These are: -

- ✦ Sanjan - 669 years;
- ✦ Bahrot Caves - 12 years (1393 - 1405 A.C.);
- ✦ Vansda Forest - 14 years 1405 - 1418 A.C.);
- ✦ Navsari - 313 years (1419 - 1732 A.C.);
- ✦ Surat - 3 years (1733 - 1736 A.C.);
- ✦ Navsari - 5 years (1736 - 1741 A.C.);
- ✦ Valsad - 1 year (1741 - 1742 A.C.);
- ✦ Udvada - 257 years (28-10-1742 till date).

After discussions with various members of the Parsi community, it was decided to form a core group comprising of well known Parsi's and nominee of the Government of Gujarat, who would ultimately get registered as a NGO and undertake responsibility of directing and executing the project.

It has now been decided that the core group would consist of the following individuals:

1. Mr. Dinshaw K Tamboly – President.
International Business Consultant,
Chairman, WZO Trust Funds, Trustee, Bombay Parsi Punchayet.
2. Mr. P. K. Laheri – Ex Officio, Government of Gujarat.
Commissioner of Tourism, Principal Secretary (Rural Development), Government of Gujarat.
3. Mr. Jehangir R. J. Cama.
Chairman – Cama Group of Hotels & Eminent Social Worker.
4. Mr. Minoo R. Shroff,
Vice Chairman – Raymonds Ltd., Company Director,
Trustee, Bombay Parsi Punchayet.
5. Mr. Burjor H. Antia,
Solicitor – Partner, Mulla & Mulla & Craigie Blunt & Caroe,
Chairman, Masina Hospital, Trustee of many charitable Trusts.
6. Mrs. Homai N. Modi,
Governor's nominee - Maharashtra State Red Cross,
Jt. Hon. Secretary, Maharashtra State Red Cross,
Hon. Secretary, Bombay City Red Cross Society & Eminent Social Worker.
7. Dr. Homi B. Dhalla,
President, World Zarthushti Cultural Foundation & Religious Scholar.

**PROMOTING & PERPETUATING UDVADA AS
CULTURAL & HERITAGE CENTRE**

(Continued from page 5)

The core group would, at a later date, co-opt other well known Parsis residing at places such as Udvada, Sanjan, Valsad, Navsari, Surat, Ahmedabad, who would be helpful in specific areas of the project.

The first assignment that is to be undertaken is the establishment of a Museum & Cultural Centre within a specific time frame.

The core group has already undertaken a quick survey of identifying suitable properties at Udvada that would be converted into a Museum & Cultural Centre. Once work on the Museum & Cultural Centre is underway, the organizing of an annual festival would be arranged and announced.

We hope that members of the Parsi community spread all over the world will appreciate the joint gesture from Government of India & Government of Gujarat in acknowledging the role of Parsi's in the area of nation building and the community will take full advantage of the facilities that are being created.

The Parsi community has recognized that whilst the Government of India & the Government of Gujarat have been generous in their acknowledgement and support for the project, additional funds would need to be generated from within the Parsi community to bring the entire project to its fruition as well as for the recurring expenditures.

It is requested that Parsis too should consider extending their support to this project. Till such time the individuals named above register themselves as a NGO, The WZO Trust Funds has agreed to receive funds and make them available for this project. Contributions may therefore please be sent in the name of

**The WZO Trust Funds,
Shanti, 5th floor,
6, Banaji Street, Fort,
Mumbai 400 001.**

*Written By: P. K. Laheri, Commissioner of Tourism, and
Government of Gujarat.*

**ZAGNY's FIRST ANNUAL
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY CONTEST**

The ZAGNY Board invites you to participate in the 1st Annual Membership Directory Contest. ZAGNY is looking for a new cover for our phone directory, which will be available at the March Navroze function.

We encourage you to use your talents and create a new look for our directory. The cover should be a unique design and should incorporate an obvious representation of Zoroastrianism on the cover. Your submission needs to be provided in Adobe PageMaker or Quark Express format or you can submit and original artwork (that is camera ready art). Keep in mind that the cover will be 8.5 by 11, in size and can be two or four color. Contestants may submit up to three different creations for us to review.

The winners will be picked by a ZAGNY Board vote. The winner will receive recognition on every directory by having their name printed on the inside cover of each directory. We print about 600 directories a year. If the Board does not approve any of the submissions, ZAGNY has the right to use the default creative we currently have.

Please note that in order to participate in this contest, you must be a ZAGNY member. If you are not a member or your membership has not been renewed for 2003, you cannot participate. Membership is annual and goes from Jan-Dec of each calendar year. All submissions should be sent to, by January 20th, 2003 to **Usheen Davar** at usheen.davar@dowjones.com.



PAGDI & PHETA
Custom Made for
Navjotes and Weddings

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SUCCESSFUL RESPONSE TO PROJECTS IN MEMORY OF 9-11

The volunteer projects sponsored by ZAGNY/IZA were begun in September 2001. All three projects - Dress for Success Drive, Food/Pantry Drive and the Winter Clothing Drive were completed by December 8, 2001 and were a great success. The service projects were undertaken in memory of victims of 9/11 and registered with the "Unity in the Spirit of America". We collected about 40-50 business suits for men and women, about 10 large boxes of winter clothing for men, women and children and about 12 grocery bags of canned and packaged foods and toiletries. In addition, we delivered several garbage bags full of casual clothing. All these were delivered to the offices of People to People Program a non-profit organization. They provide aid to those in Rockland County who find they need short term assistance with food and clothing, particularly those getting off welfare and returning to work. They were extremely happy to receive such a large donation of items.

Word gets around of the Zoroastrian spirit, and in late November, we received an urgent request from the Community Action Program of Rockland County for new toys to be given out at a Christmas party held on December 10, for children from welfare homes. Due to the short turn around time, e-mails were sent out to parents of children in the religious class requesting them to bring toys at the next class. We had a great response and we collected a total of 35 toys from within ZAGNY and through our workplace.

ZAGNY would like to thank all those who donated items, and the many parents of children from our religious classes, who sorted, ironed, folded and packed the many items. Particular thanks to **Kayomarz Khambatta** for delivering the many boxes in his van to the People to People offices, without his help we would have had to make several trips.

Let us continue to serve the community with future such projects.

THANK YOU FOR THE NEW CLASSROOMS

All the teachers and students of the ZAGNY religious class thank those involved in creating classrooms in the basement of the caretaker's house at the Pomona Darbe Mehr.

We all greatly appreciate the effort and time taken to do this for us.

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; and (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 fail_shroff@zagny.org.



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In this area, our printer inserted the artwork.

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

SEE US AT:

www.zagny.org

**Zoroastrian
Association of
Greater New York.**