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ISSUE 13

ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW YORK

SEPTEMBER 2003 NEWSLETTER

**SPECIAL
INTEREST
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**3000TH ANNIVERSARY OF ZOROASTRIAN CULTURE-
CELEBRATIONS BY THE ZOROASTRIAN COMMUNITY
OF THE METROPOLITAN NEW YORK AREA**

The NEW YORK Zoroastrian community, like other Zoroastrian associations throughout North America, is planning a showcase event program on November 15, 2003, (starting at around noon time) at Metropolitan Hotel in New York city, marking the UNESCO-affiliated "3000th Anniversary Celebrations of the Zoroastrian Culture". The program's highlights will include talks by renowned scholars on the influences of Zoroastrianism on other world cultures. The program will also include opening prayers, a book display table, recorded music, and other unique exciting features. If you would like to help in any way, please contact one of the committee members below.

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Prof. Kaikhosrov Irani, Advisor

There have been already programs in other areas, including a major conference in Tajikistan (the nation which initiated the celebrations), a Zoroastrian culture exhibition in New Delhi and Mumbai, an artifacts display at the Royal Ontario Museum, and a music festival in Vancouver.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

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● GAHAMBAR - OCTOBER 5th, 2003

Please join us on Sunday, October 5th, 2003 for a jashan at 11AM, followed by lunch, at the Pomona Darbe Mehr. This Gahambar will include the rituals of prayer and sharing of food. It also reinforces feelings of community and brotherhood and aims to remind Parsis of their roots and the good deeds that a true Parsi must do.

The cost is \$12 per adult/senior citizen, \$7 per child (from 5 to 15 years old). To register for this event, please contact Goolu Baria, via email at goolubaria@hotmail.com or via phone 203-353-8651, no later than September 29th, 2003. You can also register by sending an email to Arnavaz F. Patel at zagny_secretary@lycos.com. Registrations (either by email or mail) received less than 72 hours prior to the Gahambar will not be accepted. Please come join us.

● UDVADA ATASHBEHRAM LUNCHEON - OCTOBER 19th, 2003

Everyone is invited to attend the Udvada luncheon on Sunday, October 19th, at the Pomona Darbe Mehr. The Atash Nyaash will be recited at 11.30 AM, and will be followed by a reception and lunch.

If you will be attending, please contact **Kamal Davar** (732-549-5162), Mehru Cama (201-569-7359) or Erach Munshi (212-865-6683). If you will be unable to attend, but would like to make a donation to the Udvada Atashbehram, please send your check, payable to ZAGNY, to Erach Munshi, 200 Claremont Ave, Apt 63, New York, NY 10027. We hope that you can join us at this annual event.

● ZAPANJ FUNDRAISER - NOVEMBER 8th, 2003

ZAPANJ will be hosting a dinner and evening of Indian Entertainment. Proceeds from the ticket sales of this event will go towards a new building fund for constructing ZAPANJ's own Zarathushti Cultural Center. The evening festivities will feature Classical & Contemporary dance, Bollywood Showtunes, Ghazals, Fashion Show and much more.

Tickets for this event are \$100.00 each (includes open bar and dinner). The event will be held on November 8, from 5 PM – 11 PM at the Grand Versailles Ballroom on 531 Rte. 38W & Rte. 73 in Mapleshade, NJ 08052.

If you would like tickets or need additional information, please contact ZAGNY Board Member, Toni Ghadially, 732-972-6527.

● WORLD ZARATHUSHTI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - NOVEMBER 16th, 2003

The New York Chapter of the World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce will present a seminar on Life, Business and Stress on Sunday, November 16th, at the Pomona Darbe Mehr from 12 PM to 5 PM.

The speakers are Dr. Farokh Tarapore, Dr. Satish Modi, and Ms Shernaz Sethna. Learn from the professionals the importance of balancing your physical and emotional well-being. Our Yoga expert Ms Sethna will teach you how to relax your mind and body. The days program is Lunch from 12 – 1; Panel of Speakers from 1– 4 and Tea/Coffee/Snacks from 4 – 5. If you plan on attending, contact **Yasmin Ghadiali** (516) 378-4516. For WZCC information please call **Rusi Gandhi** (973) 263-9619, **Noshir Dutia** (973) 328-2881 or **Arnaz Maneckshana** (201) 712-4615.

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DONATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

⊙ DONATIONS

CRITICAL ASSISTANCE FUND	
Rusi Gandhi, from a real estate sale	\$ 201
Behram Buhariwalla	\$ 51
Xerxes and Shernaz Sethna	\$ 50
GENERAL FUND	
United Way of New York City – Noshir Baria	\$684.60
Ashodad	\$ 414
Mehru Dubash	\$ 125
Nari and Dinoo Dastur	\$ 100
United Way of New York City – unknown donor	\$ 53.94
Xerxes and Jerilyn Sarkary	\$ 51
Dr. and Mrs. D. K. Panveliwalla	\$ 20
NEW BUILDING FUND	
Rusi Gandhi, from a real estate sale	\$ 503
Ervad Noshir and Nergish Karanjia	\$ 100
Rusi and Shernaz Sethna	\$ 50
Noshir and Kashmira Dutia	\$ 35
SCHLOARSHIP FUND	
Rusi Gandhi, from a real estate sale for Dr. and Mrs. Mehroz Rabadi	\$ 241
Rusi Gandhi, from a real estate sale	\$ 201

⊙ CHANGE IN CONTACT INFORMATION

Zarir Unvala and Shiraz Antia
71 Aiken Street, Unit I-12
Norwalk, CT 06851
(203) 845-0066

⊙ NEW MEMBERS

Semoneel Tarapore
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Katy Eduljee
60C Salucon Brook Drive
Glastonbury, CT 06033

Baji Kapadia
3206 Franklin Lane
Rockaway Township, NJ 07866

Cyrus and Shenaz Bhote
25 Wayland Drive
Verona, NJ 07044

Cyrus and Adriana Meherji

⊙ CONGRATULATIONS TO

Neville and Paula Udwardia on the birth of their son, Nicholas Neville on July 23rd, 2003.

⊙ MUKTAD PRAYERS 2003

This year, over 100 individuals from the ZAGNY Community participated in the Muktaad Prayers which were held at various locations, from August 16th through August 20th, 2002.

On Sunday, August 17th, 2002 at the Pomona Darbe Mehr, six of our community priests, Ervad Darius Antia, Ervad Xerxes Antia, Ervad Poruz Khambatta, Ervad Jehangir Madon, Ervad Rohinton Madon and Ervad Meheroz Rabadi, led this solemn prayer ceremony in memory of dearly departed souls. They were assisted by Ervad Pervez Patel. Ms. Arnaz Maneckshana donated the flowers that were used during the ceremony. The main hall resembled a peaceful garden in full bloom. There were vases strewn on both sides of the hall, which were overflowing with bouquets of flowers.

We are grateful to the host families, Yasmin and Jamshed Ghadiali, Pam and Fali Shroff, Jasmin and Maneck Kotwal and Teshtar and Noshir Irani for graciously volunteered their homes and the priests who contributed their personal time so that the community could avail itself of these ceremonies.



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Phone # Evening : 26415656 or 26423026

EVENTS OF PATETI 2003

On Saturday, August 23rd, ZAGNY held its annual Pateti function at the Pomona Darbe Mehr. The event drew over 300 people from the community. There were several new faces in the crowd. The night was filled with music, good food and wonderful entertainment.

The evening started with a prayer ceremony performed by **Ervad Rohinton Dadina**, **Ervad Poruz Khambatta**, **Ervad Rohinton Madon** and **Ervad Pervez Patel**. Thank you for your participation. Next, DMZT updated the community on the current status of the Darbe Mehr and presented possible future plans and options, seeking the community's comments and thoughts.

Following the DMZT presentation, **Viraf Ghadially** and **Temilyn Ghadially** (Good Life Coordinators) presented the Good Life award to 3 students: **Julie Bharucha**, **Rashna Clubwalla** and **Persis Commissariat**. Congratulations and best of luck to all the recipients! ZAGNY is very proud of you.

The evening started with a prayer ceremony performed by **Ervad Rohinton Dadina**, **Ervad Poruz Khambatta**, **Ervad Rohinton Madon** and **Ervad Pervez Patel**. On behalf of the community, thank you very much for your participation. Next, DMZT updated the community on the current status of the Darbe Mehr and presented possible future plans and options, seeking the community's comments and thoughts.

In addition, the natak "NATAK NOO CHETAK" was performed during the Pateti function was a great success. The performers were **Firdosh Mehta**, **Maharukh Mehta**, **Kayomarz Khambatta**, **Rashna Harda**, **Viraf Ghadially**, **Vispi Kanga** and **Spenta Bharda**. The natak was directed by **Sheroo Kanga** and coordinated by **Toni Ghadially** and **Sheroo**. Stage settings were done by **Viraf Ghadially**. Our sincere thanks go to all the performers for their commitment towards making this a very enjoyable evening.

Another play, "The Early Childhood of the Prophet Zarathustra", was performed by our ZAGNY youth. This play had also been performed on June 1st, at the last religious class of the 2002-2003 year. The play was dramatized by the children of class 1 and their little siblings; the cast ranged from 2 to 8 years old. The story, written by **Khursheed Navder**, was narrated eloquently by little **Tina Dukandar**.

The children depicted the three ways in which evil-men tried to kill little baby Zarathustra. They acted out the scenes where the loyal angels protected him, foiling the wicked plots and bringing joy to his parents. What better way to teach our little ones about our legends! The "little" evil-guys were good natured villains, happily hamming it up, while the angels (led by **Zarah Kavarana**) were zealous in their task to protect baby Zarathustra. Even the little cows were extremely diligent in their task of protecting baby Zarathustra, so that he would not be trampled. **Kerman Dukandar** created the specially mixed music and sound effects, while **Jasely Dukandar** provided other special effects such as lighting.

After the play there was a finale song, lead by **Neville Dusaj** on the piano - the entire cast and production staff sang the song "Chayye Hame Zarhosti" and the audience sang along.

After the play there was a finale song, lead by **Neville Dusaj** on the piano - the entire cast and production staff led the audience in the song "Chayye Hame Zarhosti".

The members of the cast were **Shawn Bengali** (Pourushaspa); **Deanna Chhor** (Dugdhova); **Zarah Kavarana**, **Farah** and **Friya Randelia**, **Yazata** and **Tiraza Bhot** (Angels); **Sam Merchant**, **Kaiwan**, and **Arzan Dotiwala** (Evil-guys); **Pearl Bengali**, **Natasha Dushaj**, **Kayo Sethna**, **Cyrus Merchant**, **Spenta Bamji** (herd of cows); **Shanaya Dotiwala**, **Farah** and **Friya Randelia** (the trees in the June 1st performance); **Rukhshana Sethna** (the sun in the June 1st performance); **Neville Dusaj** (played the piano for the "Finale" song and the sun); **Tina Dukandar** (narrator)

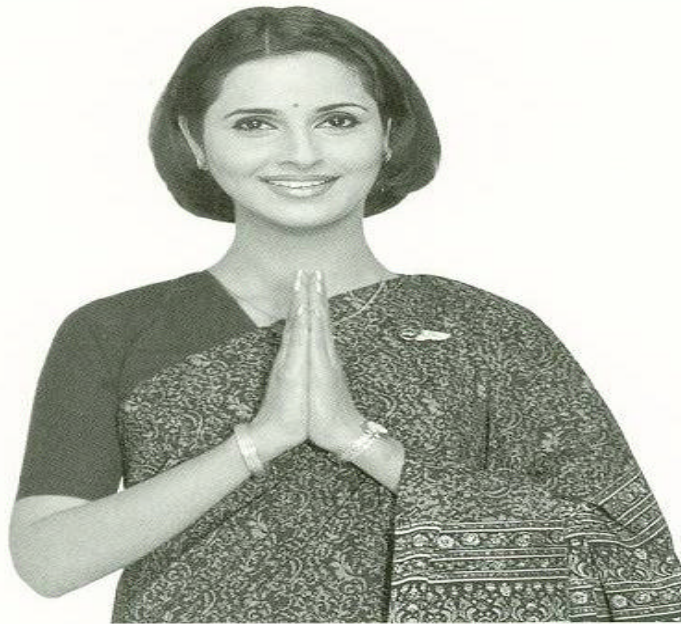
The Production volunteers were: **Arnaz Dotiwala**, **Khursheed Navder**, **Jasely** and **Kerman Dukandar**, **Nawaz Sethna**, **Dinaz Bengali**, **Avan Patel**, and **Parwana Chhor**. **Nawaz Merchant** produced the play with the help of all the Dads who put up the curtain for the performance on June 1st, and helped in so many immeasurable ways.

The performance was a success, enjoyed by both the children and the adults. "This production has been a lot of fun for all of the families, and indeed they participated so wholly. We started as acquaintances whose children happen to go to the same religious class, but during each practice we forged some enduring bonds. I was amazed at how

willingly each family became engaged in the effort. The little ones happily joined in the painting of the props, and the older kids loved the idea of acting on stage. The Moms came up with wonderful and creative ideas to enhance the play with special effects and willingly volunteered props from their homes. The dads all banded together to engineer the needed construction, moving and putting up the background and other props. This has been a memorable year indeed - and a fun performance. Thank you parents and friends, and thank you ZAGNY!"---Navaz Merchant.

A big thank you goes to our two ZAGNY bartenders, **Ushtavaity Davar** and **Aysha Ghadiali**, for their savvy bartending skills. Of course, no function would be a hit without music.....Thank You to our talented **DJ Kaizad Bhabha**, who led us through the evening with English, Hindi and even Gujarati tunes.

And no function would be a success without good food. Thank you to Palace of Asia for providing us with a delicious dinner. A sincere and special thanks goes out to our ZAGNY board members for making sure the evening ran smoothly. We appreciate your efforts.



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR! (CONTINUED)

@ "SOHRAB AND RUSTUM" AT ASIA SOCIETY NOVEMBER 7th & 8th, 2003

The Asia Society is featuring "SOHRAB AND RUSTUM", an acclaimed one-man play by Minneapolis-based actor Zaraawar Mistry. In an attempt to reach out to the community, the Asia Society will present the performances "in association" with the Zoroastrian associations of the New York area. The performance of "SOHRAB AND RUSTUM" is part of the Asia Society's fall exhibitions and programs celebrating Persian heritage.

Mistry's highly-acclaimed new play interweaves elements of the ancient Persian Zoroastrian legend from the "Shahnameh" of the warrior Rostum's fateful battle with his son, Sohrab, with a tragic-comic contemporary story of a Bombay Parsi father and son. The play, which is preceded by a short introduction to Zoroastrianism, was billed as one of Minneapolis's "Top 10" shows.

WHEN AND WHERE:

Friday, November 7th - 8:00 PM and Saturday, November 8th - 8:00 PM at the Asia Society and Museum, Park Avenue and 70th Street, New York City, (212) 517-ASIA

TICKETS:

\$16 for ZAGNY, IZA and Asia Society members; \$20 for all others

NOTE:

Actual prices NOT confirmed yet. Tickets available only AFTER mid-October. Purchase tickets from the Asia Society Box Office. Mention you are purchasing at Zoroastrian Association rate.

@ CULTURAL IDENTITY OF THE PARSI-ZOROASTRIAN PROJECT - OCTOBER 18TH 2003

Bachi Karkaria, the International Editor of Times of India, is visiting ZAGNY and other Zoroastrian organizations in North America. She has undertaken a special project entitled "The Cultural Identity of the Parsi-Zoroastrian; A multimedia project". Survival and identity are the twin threads of the complex Parsi Zoroastrian story. Many Zoroastrian Associations, including FEZANA, have given her financial grants to undertake this project. She would like to interview as many Zoroastrians as possible, especially those who have been involved in Community affairs.

She will be at the Pomona Darbe Mehr on Saturday, 18th October 2003. If you are interested in participating in either an individual interview (also available in the NY city on 14th October) or a group interview, please contact Yasmin Ghadiali, ghad@aol.com or 516-378-4516. Yasmin is also arranging a group youth dinner meeting with Bachi on October 14th. If you want your voice/opinion/impression to be heard in this adventure of Bachi Karkaria, this is your opportunity.

@ ACCESS TO FEZANA FROM THE ZAGNY WEBSITE

The ZAGNY website now has a link to the FEZANA website. Simply access the Internet and go to www.zagny.org. On the main page click Continue; from the left hand menu, click on World Wide Links; click on Global Links; when you see the map, click on North America.

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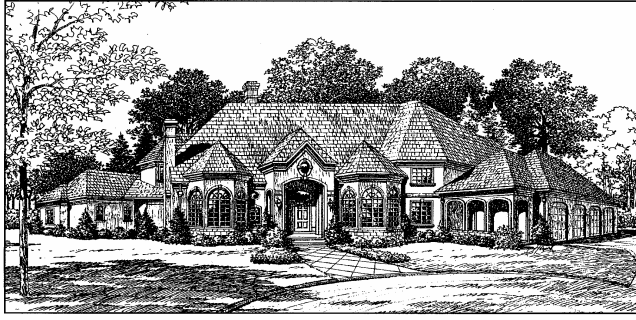


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