

Issue 14

ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW YORK

OCTOBER 2003 NEWSLETTER

The Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York and The Iranian Zoroastrian Association

*in association with The Asia Society and
The Middle East and Middle Eastern American Center at CUNY Graduate Center*

*invite you to a public event celebrating
The UNESCO-associated 3000th Anniversary of Zoroastrian Culture*

Featuring presentations by renowned Zoroastrian scholars on

"HISTORY, BELIEFS AND THE INFLUENCE OF ZOROASTRIANISM ON OTHER CULTURES"

- ◆ **Prof. Kaikoshrov D. Irani, CUNY professor emeritus of philosophy**
- ◆ **Dr. Ali A. Jafarey, founder and Honorary Director of Religious Affairs of the Zarathushtrian Assembly**
- ◆ **Dr. Farhang Mehr, Boston University professor emeritus of international relations, and former deputy prime minister of Iran**

Also featuring book displays, musical and multi-media exhibits, Zoroastrian invocation prayers by priests, a pageant of Zoroastrian attire through the ages, and Zoroastrian foods - Iranian and Parsi

November 15, 2003

12:30pm -3:30pm (doors open at 12 noon; event followed by reception)

\$20 advance (send check, or phone/email reservation) \$25 at the door

*At The Metropolitan Hotel
569 Lexington Ave. (at 51st Street)
New York City*

(Subways: 6, E, or V trains to Lexington/51st Street)

REGISTRATION INFORMATION ON PAGE 7

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fellow Zoroastrians,

This October 2003 issue of the ZAGNY Newsletter is unique, reaching out past the Greater New York area into the world community in which we live. The issue includes a donation appeal from one of our youth members, Julie Bharucha, a past recipient of the Good Life award, for collecting various items for children in Belize. This undertaking indicates a commitment to Zarathosti values of our young community members, and for that Julie, her parents, and her teachers (community members and otherwise) ought to be commended. Please donate generously and make Julie's project successful. Good luck to you, Julie. Well Done!

This issue also includes an announcement about an interesting artistic performance on a part of our culture by a fellow Zoroastrian, Zaraawar Mistry. On November 7th and 8th, the ASIA Society in association with ZAGNY is presenting a contemporary "one-man" play based on the ancient Persian legend of *Sohrab and Rustum*. Friends, this is not only an opportunity to support a community artist, but also a chance to see an artist who is billed as one of the "top 10 artists" of the Minneapolis area. Please go and enjoy the show in large numbers!

This newsletter also includes two short articles regarding on-going, local and North American Zoroastrian community activities. First, Viraf Ghadially has initiated the ZAGNY Intermarried Group (ZIG), illustrating ZAGNY's commitment to bring together our community members who may not have an opportunity to know us all. My congratulations to you, Viraf, and all the ZIG participants, and I wish you success in your endeavors. Second, Shenaya Mistry (Canada) and Neville Antia (Detroit) give you a glimpse of FEZANA's participation at the United Nations NGO conference for the second year running. It is FEZANA's clear intention to represent our community at the world's highest intergovernmental body, and many more opportunities will be coming in the future. Stay tuned for more on this in subsequent newsletters.

And finally, this newsletter contains information on our New York community's public event program for celebrating the 3000th Anniversary of Zoroastrian Culture. We will be celebrating this very important anniversary on November 15th, 2003 at the METROPOLITAN HOTEL in New York City, showcasing our community to others in the area (and associated with the Asia Society and CUNY's Middle East and Middle Eastern Center). Many dignitaries have been invited, and it is expected that many people will take advantage of this event. As seats are limited, please reserve yours early. Let us all come out in our traditional Parsi or Iranian outfits "Garas, Daglis, Phetas, Paghadis, etc". Most importantly, please spread the word about these events to your friends and colleagues, both Zoroastrian and Non-Zoroastrian and welcome them to learn more about our community.

There is also an opportunity for community businesses and well-wishers to participate in the advertisement segment of the program brochure for this event.

For information regarding advertising in the November 15th event brochure, please contact Arnavaz F. Patel via e-mail at zagny_secretary@lycos.com. For more information regarding the November 15th, 2003 event, please contact either Gev Nentin (gev.nentin@aol.com; phone 631-462-0763) or Shirin Kiamanesh (skiamane@anchor-computer.com 631-385-8471).

Homi D. Gandhi

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FEZANA AND THE UNITED NATIONS

BY: SHANAYA MISTRY & NEVILLE ANTIA



For the second consecutive year, FEZANA participated at the United Nations' Fifty-sixth Annual Conference For Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) with a team of ten representatives. Our UN team brought together Zarathushtis from all across North America and from all walks of life. The group was led by **Homi Gandhi** and **Behram Pastakia**. Other team members included **Susan Karani**, **Aysha Ghadiali**, **Roda Patel**, **Trita Parsi**, **Neville Antia**, **Rohan Vilms**, **Shanaya Mistry** and **Freyan Billimoria**.

The conference on *"Human Security and Dignity: Fulfilling the Promise of the United Nations"*, took place from September 8 - 10, 2003, at the UN headquarters in New York City. This conference was successful in highlighting one fundamental message: global discourse on security issues cannot focus on military security alone, but must be defined in terms of 'human security', which requires policies and programmes that emphasize sustainable economic and social development, human rights and a healthy environment. Recognizing NGOs as "agents of change", the conference brought together 2000 NGOs from 65 countries to discuss successful strategies in advancing human security and dignity; empowering youth and women through education was identified as a key strategy in achieving these goals. Being the foremost NGO event at the UN, the conference received wide media coverage including three press conferences, featuring keynote speakers like Danny Glover, Kingsley Moghalu of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and Roland Wiederkehr, a member of the Swiss Parliament. Interactive internet webcasts of the conference also allowed NGOs unable to attend to participate in panel discussions.



This conference enabled FEZANA to have a voice in a world forum whereby it can offer a Zarathushti perspective on global issues. It represented not only a remarkable opportunity to promote awareness of the Zarathushti community and its activities, but also the ability to forge ties with other NGOs. The team's success in networking with other organizations is a crucial step taken in identifying the type of future projects in which FEZANA can get involved. We also generated a lot of interest in FEZANA's efforts to promote youth volunteers at the Gram Seva Trust in Gujarat, India, where Dr. Roda Patel, a FEZANA representative at the conference, oversees a health and nutrition project for children.

This was truly an enriching experience for us as 'youth participants'. In a political environment where issues of human security and dignity are more pertinent than ever, the opportunity to participate in these discussions inspired us to follow the well-entrenched Zarathushti ethos of promoting peace and social justice in all communities. FEZANA's continued commitment to encourage youth participants to attend this conference is a memorable educational experience that we are not likely to forget.



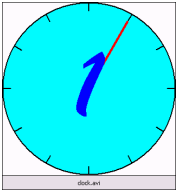
ANNOUNCEMENTS

HALLOWEEN PARTY



ZAGNY will be holding a Halloween party on Sunday November 2nd, 2003. The party will be held AFTER the classes end and will last approximately an hour. There will be games, treats, and a piñata for celebration. Parents and children are encouraged to stay for this event. Please note that the children should not wear their costumes for the prayer and religious class portion on November 2nd. The children can change into their costumes after their class is over.

RELIGIOUS CLASS TIME CHANGE



Religious class will now begin at 1:00 pm for NOVEMBER 2003 through MARCH 2004.

ZAPANJ FUNDRAISER

ZAPANJ will be hosting a dinner and evening of Indian Entertainment on November 8th, 2003. 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 8th, from 5 PM to 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 (WZCC)

The New York Chapter of the WZCC will present a seminar on Life, Business and Stress on November 16th 2003, 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 professionals the importance of balancing your physical and emotional well-being. Yoga expert Ms Sethna will teach you how to relax your mind and body. 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.

ZAGNY INTERMARRIED GROUP (ZIG)

The ZIG group, which was formed in early 2003, has been holding meeting every two months. The purpose of the group is (1) to build bridges of understanding between the Intermarried, the larger Zarathushti community and people of various other faiths and (2) to provide a forum to share issues and experiences in a fun friendly atmosphere. The group has already introduced several new members to ZAGNY and IZA and has offered help and guidance to members as needed.

Our next meeting is scheduled for November 22nd, 2003 at 2 p.m. at the Darbe-Mehr. We will be showing a short video on a Zarathushti subject. Veenu Rashid will give a short talk on Hindu/Sikh religious practices describing common and unique items compared to other religions. Since this will be close to Thanksgiving, we plan to have a discussion on how different religions/cultures express thanks and we will have a pot-luck of ethnic finger-foods after the meeting.

If you are intermarried, and have not yet attended a meeting, please join us at the next meeting. If you know of an Intermarried couple please encourage them to attend. We would like to welcome any family members of Intermarried couples to also attend these meeting. For more information and to join our mailing list please contact **Viraf Ghadially** vghad@hotmail.com

DONATIONS AND CALENDAR

Ⓢ DONATIONS

CRITICAL ASSISTANCE FUND	
Rustom and Farangis Bhopti	\$ 70.00
GENERAL FUND	
United Way-Pfizer for Noshir Baria	\$136.92
Rusi Gandhi (for the TV/VCR/DVD)	\$250.00

Ⓢ REQUEST FOR DONATION FROM JULIE BHARUCHA

Julie Bharucha is a junior in Pine Bush High School, in New Jersey. She has been a Girl Scout for over ten years and has recently completed the prerequisites for a Gold Award and her idea for her project has been approved. In addition, she has been teaching with Shiraz Antia in religion classes. Julie has decided that she would like to collect the various items from ZAGNY members, for children in Belize, Central America. The items are:



- *Children's clothes (no winter clothes);
- *Shoes, in a good condition;
- *Toys;
- *Children's Videos;
- *Stationary - books, paper, colored pencils, markers, book bags, etc.;
- *Story Books;
- *Other Children's items

For the next three months, Julie will be collecting the items on ZAGNY religion class days. At the end of the three months, she will mail these items to Belize. Julie can be contacted via email at, xbhar@pioneers.net.

Ⓢ ZAGNY MEMBERSHIP FOR 2004

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 before December 31, 2003.

In November, we will be mailing you a membership form, as a separate mailing, please take two minutes to complete the form and send it back. In addition, the 2004 membership form will be available on the ZAGNY website, after November 15th, 2003.

Ⓢ CALENDAR OF EVENTS



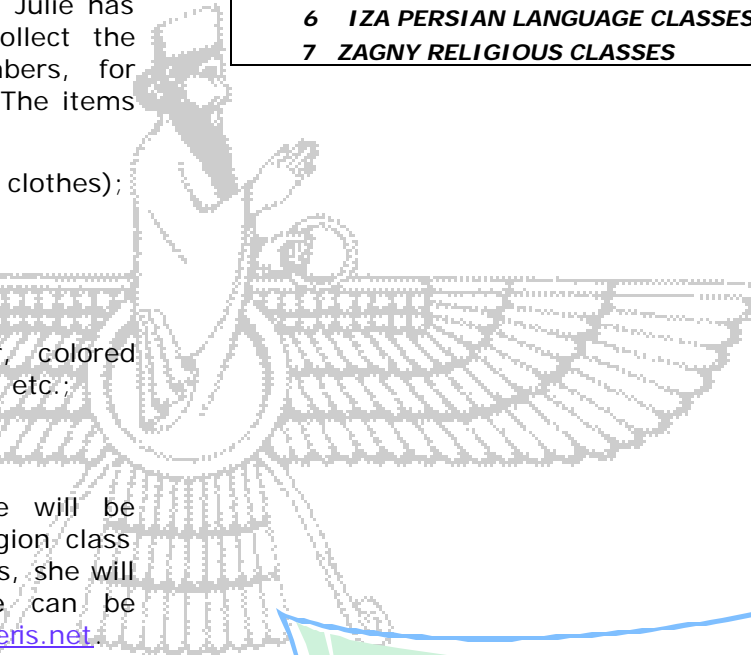
NOVEMBER 2003

- 1 IZA PERSIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES
- 2 ZAGNY RELIGIOUS CLASSES & HALLOWEEN PARTY (CLASS BEGINS AT 1PM)
- 7 SOHRAB AND RUSTUM at the Asia Society
- 8 SOHRAB AND RUSTUM at the Asia Society
- 8 ZAPANJ FUNDRAISER
- 15 3000 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
- 16 WZCC SEMINAR – LIFE, BUSINESS and STRESS
- 22 ZOROASTRIAN INTERMARRIED GROUP MEETING



DECEMBER 2003

- 6 IZA PERSIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES
- 7 ZAGNY RELIGIOUS CLASSES





PAGDI & PHETA

Custom Made for
Navjotes and Weddings

CONTACT
 Armin Pooniwalla
 12 - Gulnar, Hill Road,
 Bandra, Bombay
arminfarrokh@hotmail.com
 Phone # Daytime : 24475656 or 24472541
 Phone # Evening : 26415656 or 26423026

Asia Society and Center for Independent Artists
In association with the Zoroastrian Associations of New York present

Sohrab and Rustum

A contemporary play
based on an ancient
Persian legend

Friday – Saturday,
November 7 – 8,
8:00 P.M.

Pre-performance
lecture at 6:30 P.M.



Photo: Charissa Uemura • Graphic Design: Susan Kareko Binkley

Sohrab and Rustum

A contemporary play based on an ancient Persian legend

Written and performed by **Zaraawar Mistry** • Created in collaboration with **Kathleen Sullivan** • Music composed and performed live by **Tim O'Keefe** and **Maryam Yusefzadeh**

Asia Society 725 Park Avenue (at East 70 Street) NYC
Friday-Saturday, November 7-8, 8:00 P.M.

The fateful battle between the warrior Rustum and his son Sohrab is a beloved legend from the Persian epic, *Shahnameh (Book of Kings)* by Ferdowsi. Asian American writer/performer Zaraawar Mistry's new play intertwines elements of the ancient story with a contemporary tragicomic tale of a Zoroastrian family from Bombay. Playing a dozen different characters, and using the iconography of traditional rituals, Mistry performs a quintessentially American story – of family, war and migration – set against a backdrop of the zenith, decline, and now preservation of the Zoroastrians. The music for the play is performed live by Tim O'Keefe and Maryam Yusefzadeh, both members of the Persian music ensemble Robayat.

\$16 members/seniors/students; \$20 nonmembers
For tickets and information, call (212) 517-ASIA or visit
www.AsiaSociety.org

This production made possible through the support of the Jerome Foundation. Major support for performances at the Asia Society is provided by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.



725 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10021

**NOTE: TICKETS FOR IZA AND ZAGNY MEMBERS ARE AT THE \$16 DISCOUNT RATE.
WHEN PURCHASING MENTION "ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATIONS".**

**TO REGISTER FOR THE NOVEMBER 15, 2003 EVENT CELEBRATING
THE 3000TH ANNIVERSARY OF ZOROASTRIAN CULTURE**

OPTION ONE:

Mail your check (payable to ZAGNY) with the completed form below to:

Gev Nentin
Swarthmore Lane
Dix Hills, NY 11746

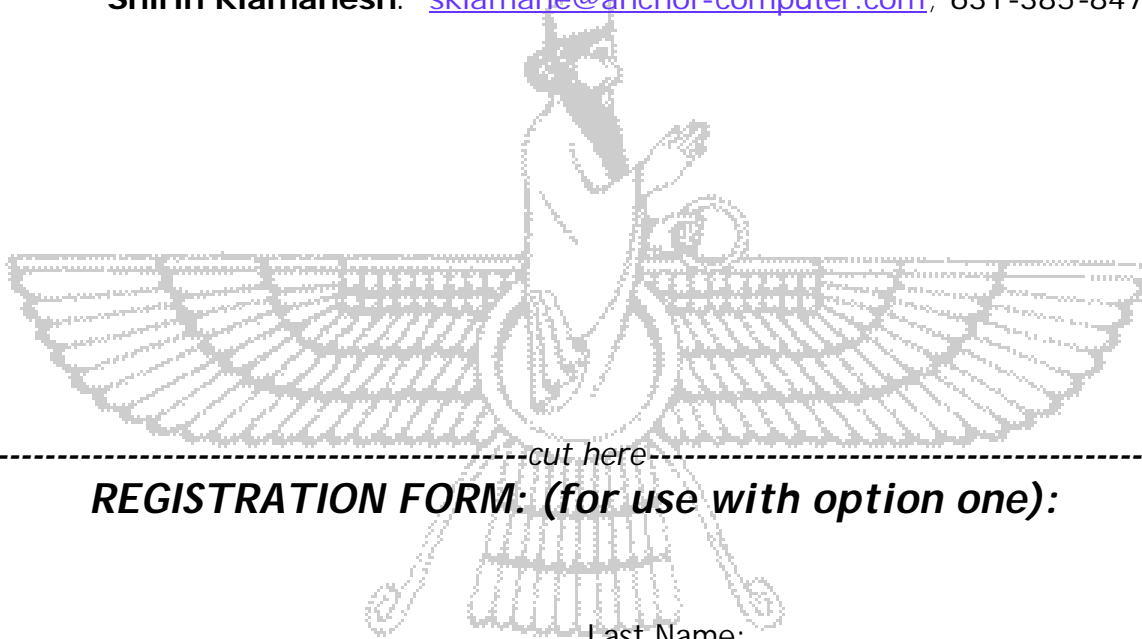
OPTION TWO:

Confirm your reservation via email or phone:

Gev Nentin - gevnentin@aol.com
Gev Nentin - 631-462-0763

TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THIS EVENT, CONTACT

Gev Nentin: gevnentin@aol.com; 631-462-0763
Shirin Kiamanesh: skiamane@anchor-computer.com; 631-385-8471



REGISTRATION FORM: (for use with option one):

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____ Email: _____

Total number of people attending: _____

Total cost enclosed (\$20 per person): \$_____

Your cancelled check will be your receipt.

"3,000th Anniversary of Zoroastrian Culture" event, November 15, 2003



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Suffern, NY 10901

We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.zagny.org

**Zoroastrian
Association of
Greater New York.**