



ISSUE 15

ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW YORK

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2004 NEWSLETTER

ZAGNY CELEBRATES JAMSHEDI NAVROZE 2004

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The celebration of Jamshedi Navroze bridges the old year to the new year with the advent of spring. The resurgence of life takes place during this period with the symbolic victory of the forces of light over darkness.

Legend has it that the Jamshedi Navroze celebration dates back to the times of the legendary King of Persia, Jamshed. It is said that King Jamshed introduced solar calculations into the Persian calendar, and therefore set as the beginning of the year the date the sun enters the constellation of Aries. Also, legend has it that on this day King Jamshed forced the demons to carry him on their shoulders from Mount Demavand to Babylon.

This day came to be known as Navroze or Jamshedi Navroze day.

Please join ZAGNY in the celebration of Jamshedi Navroze on Saturday, March 20th, 2004. Registration starts at 5 PM. For additional details and to register, please turn to page 6.

We encourage all interesting in providing Indian food with a predominance of Parsi flavor for this 300+ affair to contact Cyrus Hirjibehedin, 212.663.5768 or cfh6@columbia.edu for further information. Preference in the selection process will be given to ZAGNY members. The deadline for submitting a completed bid is February 14th, 2004.

DONATE TO BAM EARTHQUAKE RELIEF FUND

A MESSAGE FROM FEZANA

You all must have read and heard about the massive earthquake that has practically destroyed the entire city of Bam, Iran. This ancient city of Bam was founded more than 2000 years ago. It was at one point in time, the center for Zarathushti religion and home to a popular fire temple. It has also been a center of historical preservation and a popular tourist attraction.

FEZANA and its executive board have sanctioned \$1000 effective immediately to be used for any immediate help that is needed. FEZANA understands that there is a desire to help across the North American community though at this point in time it is too early to determine the extent of assistance that Zarathushti families in need require due to this tragedy. Hence, it seems prudent at the present time for FEZANA to gather contributions. The funds will be collected through FEZANA

and effective channels of communication and means for the distribution of the money will be established. As the need arises and requests for monetary funds come in, FEZANA will disperse funds in a manner that are most effective.

The contributions should be marked as "FEZANA - Donation Bam Earthquake" and sent to:

Rashid Mehin, FEZANA Treasurer
583 Beverly Place
San Marcos, CA 92069

(Contributions are tax deductible for US residents.)

The Zoroastrian community appreciates and applauds the manner in which the community has stepped forward to help our people in Iran. If there are any please contact Mahrukh Motafram; mmotafram@msn.net, Rashid Mehin; rmehin@sbcglobal.net.

We sincerely hope the New Year brings unity and harmony amongst Zarathushti's around the world.

ZAGNY BOARD:

ZAGNY_SECRETARY@LYCOS.COM

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NEW YORK'S ZOROASTRIAN COMMUNITY CELEBRATES UNESCO-DECLARED "3,000TH ANNIVERSARY OF ZOROASTRIAN CULTURE" IN NOVEMBER

Written By: Tamina Davar

November 7-15 marked a rare week of Zoroastrian-related public events, enjoyed by hundreds of ethnically and religiously diverse people. Involving first-ever collaborations with cultural institutions, these included a major IZA and ZAGNY event celebrating the UNESCO-declared "3,000th Anniversary of Zoroastrian Culture;" a theater production at the Asia Society; and a coincidentally-scheduled play reading.

On November 7th and 8th the Asia Society – with IZA and ZAGNY as copresenters, produced "Sohrab and Rustum," a one-man play by actor Zaraqar Mistry, billed one of Minneapolis's "Top 10" productions. The play retells the legend of the fateful battle between the warrior Rustum and his son Sohrab (from the *Shahnameh (Book of Kings)*, the 11th century Persian epic chronicling much Zoroastrian history); weaving it with a story of a contemporary Parsi family in Mumbai – into a performance about loyalty, generational differences, war and migration. Mistry, who directs an arts center in Minneapolis, played a dozen different characters, accompanied by a Persian music ensemble. The show, sold out days before (with discounted tickets for IZA and ZAGNY members), played to over 250 people each night, to standing ovations. The Asia Society's Director of Performing Arts/Public Programs, Rachel Cooper, was enthusiastic about this collaboration and looks forward to others.

The next week, the Indo-American Arts Council and Lark Theatre coincidentally presented readings of "Feroza Among the Farangees," a play by Houston-based novelist Bapsi Sidhwa, based on her novel *An American Brat* and its recent London production.

On November 15, over 350 people attended IZA and ZAGNY's public event, "History, Beliefs, and the Influence of Zoroastrianism on Other Cultures" (cosponsored by Asia Society, and CUNY's Middle East & Middle Eastern American Center), hosted at the Metropolitan Hotel in Manhattan, through gracious arrangement with manager Sam Bhadha.

Attendees were greeted by volunteers in traditional Parsi and Iranian outfits, offering rosewater and mirror reflection (an Iranian welcoming gesture); Parsi "toran" and flowers, compliments of Elegant Affairs; and Iranian and Parsi ("ses") trays. The entrance featured a Zoroastrian book display table, organized by Aysha Ghadiali with Jamshed and

Yasmin Ghadiali, with a huge assortment – from coffee table, to fiction, to cookbooks; displays of quotations by Zoroastrian authors such as Rohinton Mistry, Bapsi Sidhwa (who attended the event), and others; and a printed booklist.

The program brochure included excerpts from a "3000th Anniversary" message by Koïchiro Matsuura, UNESCO's Director-General, originally published in HAMAZOR, the World Zoroastrian Organisation's journal; a special letter from Shashi Tharoor, United Nations Under-Secretary General for Communications and Public Information; and messages from Minoo Shroff, Chairman of the Bombay Parsi Panchayet; and Dinshaw Tamboly, Chairman of the World Zoroastrian Organisation Trust in India.

The onstage events occurred against a Persepolis backdrop mural by Dolly and Freddy Khambatta, specially commissioned by Sam Bhadha. Opening prayers (by Ervads Darius Antia, Rohinton Madon, Karl Khambatta, and Burgese Turel) began the event; followed by spoken English translations by Mitra Mehr and Kayhan Irani. ZAGNY president Homi Gandhi and IZA president Shirin Kiamanesh made welcoming remarks (Kiamanesh also translating into Persian). Gandhi noted special academic, religious, and diplomatic guests; and read aloud the congratulatory letter by the UN's Shashi Tharoor. Gandhi introduced His Excellency Rashid Alimov, Tajikistan Ambassador to the United Nations, and Sayu S. Bhojwani, Commissioner, Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, who made remarks (Seema Singh, Ratepayer Advocate for the State of New Jersey, was also scheduled, but unable to attend). Alimov spoke about Zoroastrianism's importance in Central Asia and a changing world; Bhojwani said, "Without you [the Zoroastrian community], New York would not be the New York it is today."

The main speakers, on Zoroastrianism's influence on other major religions and cultures, were New York's own Professor Kaikhosrov D. Irani, CUNY professor emeritus of philosophy (whose philosophies were recently produced into "Domains of Belief," a DVD for sale); and Dr. Farhang Mehr, Boston University professor emeritus of international relations, and former deputy prime minister of Iran. Professor Irani spoke on Zarathustra's innovations in Indo-European cultures

**NEW YORK'S ZOROASTRIAN COMMUNITY CELEBRATES
UNESCO-DECLARED "3,000TH ANNIVERSARY OF ZOROASTRIAN CULTURE" IN NOVEMBER**

(continued)

and showed how various Zoroastrian tenets, such as personal responsibility for one's actions, can also be viewed in context of contemporary philosophies. He also mentioned Zoroastrianism's sense of morality, and the need to speak out against social injustice. Dr. Mehr spoke eloquently on the history of Zoroastrian thought and culture, and its influence on the practices and beliefs of other cultures and religions, both during and after the Persian empires.

Following was a short, highly popular video on Zoroastrianism, professionally produced for the event by Kaizad Bhabha and Thomas Jackson of 2B Productions (who also arranged for and handled the event's entire sound and lighting).

The finale, a fashion showcase directed by Tanaz Parmar, featured traditional and modern Iranian and Parsi attire. Narrated by husband-and-wife team Tanaz Dutia and Michel Reid, and featuring models of diverse ages and genders, it resulted from considerable research and rehearsal by Parmar and her volunteer team. The event ended with closing remarks by Gev Nentin, and Tamina Davar; and a reception of Iranian and Parsi food catered by the Metropolitan's (Parsi) chef, Burzis Thunti.

During the event Susan Karani was presented with the FEZANA Scholarship check of \$2,000 by Framroze Patel.

Attended by journalists, the event was featured in *New York Newsday*; *The Iranian* (which will feature a future full-length article); in full-page spreads in *India Abroad*, and *News India-Times* (and cover story in their free weekly, *Desi-Talk*); and on TV Asia, broadcast throughout North America.

Organization of the November 15 event – and promotion of both official events – was handled by a committee (Homi Gandhi, Gev Nentin, Mehru Cama, Tamina Davar, Aysha Ghadiali, Suzie Karani, Shirin Kiamanesh, and Framroze Patel), over several months – but the process, and the events themselves could not have been so successful without the strong help of numerous wonderful volunteers (listed in the event program) who devoted hours of their time, energy, and wishes.

Both public events (and the play reading) attracted peoples of diverse backgrounds – including Zoroastrians attending a community event for the first time, thrilled at their warm welcome. Many expressed excitement about 3000th Anniversary celebrations elsewhere, and looked forward to future New York Zoroastrian public events.

Photographs from the event.



ZAGNY president Homi Gandhi and IZA president Shirin Kiamanesh



Ervads Darius Antia, Rohinton Madon, Karl Khambatta, and Burgese Turel



Speakers, Professor Kaikhosrov D. Irani (top left) and Dr. Farhang Mehr (bottom right)



Participants in traditional Iranian attire and a model from the fashion show.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

WZCC, NY is pleased to announce its first meeting for 2004 to be held at the Darbe Mehr on February 29th.

The topic of the day will be surviving corporate downsizing by reinventing yourself. The panel of speakers will include top level executives who became unemployed due to mergers, acquisitions, bankruptcies. They will share their personal experiences and discuss positive ways of, becoming re-marketable, dealing with emotional turmoil's and handling financial strains.

We welcome you and your friends to attend and share your ideas. Please contact **Arnaz Maneckshana** at (201)712-4615 or amanecksha@aol.com, if you or anyone you know would like to be on this panel. For WZCC membership information, please call **Rusi Gandhi** (973)263- 9619 or **Noshir Dutia** (973) 328-2881.

EVENT RECAP

WZCC meeting was held on Sunday, November 16th, 2003 at the Pomona Darbe Mehr. **Patricia Steckler**, Ph.D, a prominent licensed Psychologist, shared her valuable knowledge on how to manage day- to- day stress levels at home and work. She recommended a few simple steps.

- Recognize and disengage from the situation.
- Breathe deeply and generate positive thoughts and memories.
- Change of perspective and inner dialogue will help provide a solution.
- Prepare to keep the commitments you make to yourself.

The second speaker, Shernaz Sethna, a Yoga instructor, discussed and demonstrated how to achieve your full potential by making Yoga a way of live. The seminar participants marveled at her technique, ease and flexibility. All present enthusiastically participated in the exercise session.

We sincerely thank the guest speakers for a very interesting and enjoyable afternoon. We also thank **Yasmin Ghadiali** for envisioning this topic of discussion and for the delicious lunch, etc., she and Jamshed so generously provided.

For information on WZCC please contact **Rusi Gandhi** (973) 263-9619, **Noshir Dutia** (973) 328-2881 or **Arnaz Maneckshana** (201) 712-4615.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

FEBRUARY 2004	
1	ZAGNY Religious Classes ****(1 PM START)
7	IZA Persian Class**** (10 AM for Adults, 11 AM for children)
7	IZA Sadeh Function****(5 PM START)
29	WZCC – Surviving Corporate Downsizing
MARCH 2004	
6	IZA Persian Class**** (10 AM for Adults, 11 AM for children)
7	ZAGNY Religious Classes ****(1 PM START)
20	ZAGNY AGM and Jamshedi Navroze Function *** (5.00 REGISTRATION 5.30 OPENING PRAYER 6.00 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 7.00 COCKTAILS/DINNER/DANCING)
27	IZA Nowrooz and Zarthustra's Birthday Celebration ****(Contact Sherry Kiamanesh for information)
APRIL 2004	
3	IZA Persian Class**** (10 AM for Adults, 11 AM for children)
4	ZAGNY Religious Classes ****(2 PM START)
MAY 2004	
1	IZA Persian Class**** (10 AM for Adults, 11 AM for children)
2	ZAGNY Religious Classes ****(2 PM START)
JUNE 2004	
5	IZA Persian Class**** (10 AM for Adults, 11 AM for children)
6	ZAGNY Religious Classes ****(2 PM START)
TBD	Ivy F. Gandhi Camp (details to be provided in a future newsletter)

HAVE YOU MAILED IN YOUR 2004 ZAGNY MEMBERSHIP?

Have you sent in your 2004 ZAGNY membership form? Your ZAGNY membership is an annual calendar-year membership, and runs from January 1st through December 31st. Members are therefore asked to send in their membership payment by January 30th of each year.

For those of you who have already sent in your 2004 membership form and payment, we thank you very much. For those of you, who have not registered yet, don't delay! Please fill out your membership form and mail it to us today. **If you cannot find your membership form, turn to page 7.**

All completed forms should be mailed, along with your check made payable to ZAGNY, to **Jasmin Kotwal**, 12 Park Hill Terrace, Princeton Junction, NJ 08550.

CORRECTIONS: The Membership Form incorrectly stated that Associate Members are not allowed to vote. This was an oversight by the Membership Committee. We apologize for the error. Also, in the last newsletter, the donation made by Rusi Gandhi was from a real estate sale.

DONATIONS AND INFORMATION

Ⓜ DONATIONS

CRITICAL ASSISTANCE FUND	
Sam Morris	\$ 1000.00
Baji and Christine Palkhiwala	\$ 250.00
Khushru and Farzana Irani	\$ 100.00
Vispi and Ignasha Cassod	\$ 100.00
Lovji and Rupy Hakim	\$ 50.00
Behram Buhariwalla	\$ 50.00
Vira Saklatwalla	\$ 50.00
Urmez and Rovena Davar	\$ 30.00
Soli and Naju Tavarua	\$ 60.00
Homi and Kashmira Cooper	\$ 21.00
Aspi and Zarin Bharda	\$ 20.00
GENERAL FUND	
Darius and Mehru Dubash	\$1000.00
Ashodad	\$ 463.00
Sam Sethna, in memory of Mr Rashid.	\$ 201.00
United Way – Noshir Baria	\$ 136.92
Hoshang and Renate Khambatta	\$ 100.00
Dara and Freny Sagar	\$ 100.00
Cyrus and Adriana Meherji	\$ 72.00
Meherwan and Joan Motivala	\$ 71.00
Shahvir and Nazneen Vimadalal	\$ 62.00
Anonymous	\$ 60.00
United Way – Virasp Davar	\$ 52.20
Shanaya Deboo	\$ 51.00
Farokh and Dominique Patel	\$ 50.00
Edul and Tehnaz Bamji	\$ 50.00
Noshir and Kashmira Dutia	\$ 50.00
Lovji and Rupy Hakim	\$ 50.00
Jimmy and Goolcher Wadia	\$ 50.00
Vira Saklatwalla	\$ 50.00
Khurshed Mehta	\$ 45.00
Khushru and Roshan Hakim	\$ 40.00
Maneck and Najoo Daroowalla	\$ 40.00
Shapur and Ingrid Irani	\$ 40.00
United Way – Virasp Davar	\$ 41.76
Dolat Bamji	\$ 20.00
Shavir and Nazneen Vimadala	\$ 10.00
NEW BUILDING FUND	
Sam Morris	\$ 500.00
Jimmy and Khursheed Wadia	\$ 500.00
Anonymous	\$ 201.00
Noshir and Kashmira Dutia	\$ 200.00
Edul and Niloufer Daver	\$ 100.00
Cyrus and Farzana Cama	\$ 100.00
Hoshang and Renate Khambatta	\$ 100.00
Rohinton and Navaz Dadina	\$ 51.00
Vira Saklatwalla	\$ 50.00
Lovji and Rupy Hakim	\$ 50.00
Farokh and Dominique Patel	\$ 50.00
Mahrukh and Rohinton Cama	\$ 50.00
Ferzin Patel	\$ 30.00

SCHLOARSHIP FUND	
Baji and Christine Palkhiwala	\$ 250.00
Sam Morris	\$ 500.00
Vira Saklatwalla	\$ 100.00
Nari and Dinoo Dastur	\$ 100.00
Sherazad Mehta	\$ 50.00
Mahrukh and Rohinton Cama	\$ 50.00
Lovji and Rupy Hakim	\$ 50.00
Anonymous	\$ 25.00
Aspi and Zarin Bharda	\$ 20.00
LIBRARY FUND	
Vira Saklatwalla	\$ 50.00
Tanaz Dutia and Michel Reid	\$ 50.00
Eruch Nowrojee and Janet Immermann	\$ 25.00
Susan Karani	\$ 5.00

Ⓜ CHANGE IN CONTACT INFORMATION

Minoo Bengali - mkbengali@comcast.net

Mehru Cama - mlcama@verizon.net

Rosy and Jimmy Rustomji
259 Mariomi Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Natasha and John Roselli
108 Lafayette Dr. Washington Crossing, PA 18977
215-321-6452

Ⓜ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Kerman and Melissa Lalkaka
108-50 62nd Drive, Apartment 6P, Forest Hills, NY 11375
718.275.2779

Soli Gharda
69-22 Nansen Street, Forest Hills, NY 11375

Shonali Dasgupta
5 Rutledge Court, Plainsboro, NJ 08536

Ⓜ OUR CONDOLENCES TO

Danny and Goher Mobed, Jehangir and Mahrukh Mobed and Ninaz and Xerxes Bharucha on the death of their mother Perin Mobed in Karachi.

<p>Arnaz Maneckshana 80 Route 4 East Financial Consultant Paramus, NJ 07652 arnaz.maneckshana@axa-advisors.com Tel. (201) 712-4615 arnaz.maneckshana.myaxa-advisors.com Fax (201) 712-4713</p>	<p>PRODUCTS and SERVICES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Compensation Plans • Estate Conservation • Fee-Based Financial Planning • Employee Benefits • Mutual Funds • Life Insurance • Annuities
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If you would like to announce an event that will occur within the next 3 months in the ZAGNY newsletter, or provide feedback or suggestions about this newsletter, please email zagny_secretary@lycos.com. Page 5

REGISTRATION: JAMSHEDI NAVROZE 2004

The Navroze Function will be held on March 20th, 2004 at the Pomona Darbe Mehr

5.00 REGISTRATION

5.30 OPENING PRAYER

6.00 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7.00 COCKTAILS FOLLOWED BY DINNER AND DANCING

11.30 LAST DANCE

			NUMBER ATTENDING	AMOUNT (\$)
ADULTS	-	\$25.00	_____	_____
NON-MEMBERS	-	\$35.00	_____	_____
CHILDREN 5-15 YRS	-	\$15.00	_____	_____
SENIOR CITIZENS (65+)	-	\$15.00	_____	_____
DONATIONS:			_____	_____
		TOTAL:	_____	_____

MEMBERS NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

TEL. NO. HOME: _____ **E-MAIL ADDRESS:** _____

Reservations must be received by March 7th, 2004. Registration will be non-refundable.

A **SURCHARGE** of \$15.00 per person or \$25.00 per family will be applied to any registration made at the function or within 48 hours prior to the function.

Kindly mail your reservation form with your check made out to ZAGNY to:

Jasmin Kotwal

12 Park Hill Terrace

Princeton Junction, NJ 08550

2004 ZAGNY MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: _____
Last name
First name
Spouse's name

CHILDREN: *Name* *Date of Birth (mm/yy)*

HOME ADDRESS:

HOME PHONE/CELL/PERSONAL E-MAIL

Phone: _____

Cell: _____

E-Mail: _____

Spouse's E-Mail: _____

MEMBER'S INFO.

SPOUSE'S INFO.

Originally from: _____

Company Name: _____

Profession/Title: _____

Address: _____

Business Phone : () _____ - _____

Business Fax: _____

Business E-mail: _____

() _____ - _____

Type of membership desired (check one):

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|----------|
| Regular | Associate | | |
| Member* | Member** | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Family | \$ 100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual Adult | 50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Senior Citizens - Per Person | 30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Full Time Student | 25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Non Resident Individual/Family | 40 |
| Donation | | | \$ _____ |
| TOTAL | | | \$ _____ |

Please allocate my donation to the following fund(s):

\$ _____

NEW Building _____

General Fund _____

Scholarship _____

Critical Assist. _____

Library _____

Please make your CHECK payable to ZAGNY and mail this FORM with your check to:
Jasmin Kotwal at: 12 Park Hill Terrace, Princeton Junction, NJ 08550. Phone: (609) 275-5952.

Please Turn Over For Membership Definitions



ZAGNY
106 Pomona Road
Suffern, NY 10901

E-Mail
zagny_secretary@lycos.com

Phone:
845.362.2104

2004 ZAGNY MEMBERSHIP FORM (Page 2)

The Following are Membership Definitions as Approved by ZAGNY Board

- * Regular Members: At least one member of the family is Zoroastrian.**
- ** Associate Members: No Member of the family is Zoroastrian**

Family is Parent(s) and Their Children under the age of 21 years.

Individual Adult is anyone who is 21 years old and over.

Senior Citizen is anyone who is 65 years old and over.

Student is anyone who is enrolled Full-Time at an Academic Institution.

Non-Resident is anyone who resides outside the States of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

Forms that have a discrepancy will be sent to the Membership Committee to resolve and confirm the issue at hand.

ZAGNY
106 Pomona Rd.
Suffern, NY 10901

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.zagny.org

**Zoroastrian
Association of
Greater New York.**