



ISSUE 16

ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW YORK

FEBRUARY/MARCH 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 5.

DISPLAY REGARDING 3000TH ANNIVERSARY OF ZOROASTRIAN CULTURE

WRITTEN BY: VIRAF GHADIALLY

The Zoroastrian Intermarried Group (ZIG), requested its members to generate publicity for our community during the November meeting. One of the active ZIG members **Jasley Dukandar** took the initiative to introduce us to **Kashmira Karai** a librarian at the Edison Public Library in New Jersey. Thanks to her efforts we had a full show-case display of several Zoroastrian books, pamphlets and artifacts during the months of December and January.

According to Kashmira, the interest level in the displays was high and several people were directed to her for additional information regarding our religion and community. A short write-up regarding this also appeared in the Library newsletter and the Edison Sentinel website.

AND STILL TO COME –

In continuation of the celebration of the UNESCO-declared "3,000th Anniversary of Zoroastrian Culture", the New York Zoroastrian community will host an academic panel, featuring Prof. K. D. Irani, Professor of Philosophy, City University of New York, and Prof. H. Z. Szubin, Professor of Linguistics, City University of New York and Hebrew University, in Jerusalem, amongst other scholars. The event will take place in April 2004. – *Provided by Susan Karani*



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VISPI KANGA

It all began with an afternoon phone call on 20th November 2003. At the other end was Dr. Meherbanoo Bakhtiyari inviting me on behalf of Dr. Rostam Abadian, President, Zarthoshti Anjuman of Tehran, for the Iranian Celebrations on December 11th & 12th, 2003 in Teheran (normally Thursday/Friday is a weekend in Iran). I was quite taken aback as a direct phone call from Tehran was the last thing I was expecting on that day. I conveyed all the imminent problems I could visualize at that time—difficulty in getting visa, air reservations, leave from work, etc. but Meherbanoo was insistent in getting my yes answer. We concluded our phone call after Meherbanoo obtained a promise from me to consider the invitation and respond in affirmative as soon as possible. After communicating the messages to Firdosh Mehta, FEZANA President, Rivetna, and other leaders in the community and receiving further faxes, telephone calls and emails from Iran over the next few days, I decided to visit Tehran, provided the Iranian visa came in time. Even though the first snow blizzard of the winter blanketed the Northeast on the first weekend in December, I managed to get back my Passport from the Iranian Visa Section of the Pakistan Embassy on late Saturday afternoon on December 6th.

On December 10th, I arrived at the Meherabad airport in Tehran; I find a man with a big placard welcoming me and a lady came forward to welcome me with a bunch of tube roses and mini marigolds in her hand. Fahim & Mahnaz Bakhtiyani had come to receive me with Perween. Fahim works 1200 kilometers away in Bander Abbas in oil drilling business and comes home once every 2-3 weeks. As the luck would have it, this was the weekend he had come, as he would also attend the celebrations. Mahnaz is a housewife and attends many important meetings of the community affairs besides managing the household. Their elder son is on military duty, which is compulsory for any male between 20-36 for a period of 2-3 years. Their daughter studies at a university in Pune, India. Mahnaz was born in Mumbai but came to Iran at a very early age. They drove me down to Laleh International Hotel, one of the few five-star hotels in the city.

December 11th function was at the Ferdowsi Hall, School of Literature, Tehran University. The morning session began with a short prayer and the Orchestra playing and the Chorus singing "Ashem Vohu". This was followed by the opening message from Dr. Kahrooby, Head of the Islamic Iranian Parliament, and responded by the minority Majlis (Parliament) member, Dr. Dabestani. After that I

was invited to address the gathering as the main guest speaker. After that Dr. Kersi Antia from Chicago addressed the gathering. The traditional prayer ceremony opened the sessions which included cultural program of Folklore dances and traditional music.

It also included speeches from various University scholars & Mobeds from Tehran, Yazd, & Kerman. In between, a sumptuous lunch was served at the University Dining Hall. Many other scholars & well-wishers participated in the afternoon session as well. The hall was choc-o-full, with an estimated crowd of over 1,000 people. Simultaneous Farsi/English and English/Farsi translation were available. Diplomatic crowd was well represented, which included among others Ambassadors from Austria, China, France, and Germany. The closing ceremony followed, after which local press interviewed me in the evening on my impressions and other related Zoroastrian subjects.

The December 12th, function began at the Zarthoshti Anjuman's Hall with "Baaj" prayers by 3 priests. Tradition is to pray by sitting on the chair & putting all items on the table facing the crowd. After the prayers, Dr. Abtahi, Deputy Prime Minister in charge of Minorities Discourse and Culture, addressed the crowd, responded by Dr. Dabestani & the Head Priest from Tehran.



After lunch and prayers at the Dare Mehr, which is attached to the Hall, there were video presentations on the various sites in Iran and then awards were presented to all outstanding students. After tea, there was a cultural program in the Main Hall, where French Ambassador also addressed the crowd. It was once again a standing room only event, attended by almost a thousand people. The program ended with the recitation of poetry by Tooran Shahriari Bahrami.

This was a very short and quickly arranged visit for me to Iran. I wish that I had more time to plan the visit and see many historic sites. However, I was happy that I participated in the Iranian 3000th Anniversary celebrations. And, there is always the next time in future to explore those memorable sites of Iran.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

XIII NORTH AMERICAN ZOROASTRIAN CONGRESS

The Zarthoshti Anjuman of Northern California (ZANC) is hosting the 13th North American Zoroastrian Congress in the San Francisco Bay Area from December 29th, 2004 to January 1st, 2005, at the Santa Clara Marriott Hotel, which is in the heart of Silicon Valley. The room rates are a very reasonable \$69.00 per room (plus taxes) for up to 4 persons per room. These rates are valid from December 24th, 2004 to January 5th, 2005.

The organizers have planned a varied and interesting program revolving around the theme "*Being Zarathushti: Looking at Issues; Searching for Answers*". Some of the topics for discussion will be:

- Relevance of Zoroastrianism in the 21st Century
- Zoroastrianism in the Internet Age
- Zoroastrian Archaeology and efforts to preserve our heritage
- The Message of the Gathas

For additional details, visit the web site: www.zanc.org/congress.

17TH FEZANA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FEZANA's AGM is to be held in Tampa on May 29th and 30th, 2004. The Zoroastrian Association of Tampa Bay, ZATAMBAY, will host the AGM at AMERISUITES TAMPA AIRPORT/WESTSHORE HOTEL, 1-813-282-1037. The room rate of US\$ 69.00 (plus taxes) for up to 4 persons per room. under the group name of 'FEZANA-AGM-ZOROASTRIAN, has been negotiated.

Booking for this rate MUST be done on or before Thursday April 29th 2004. For additional details of the AGM, please contact, Fezana Secretary, Rita Engineer, ritaengineer@adelpia.net.

FEZANA SCHOLARSHIPS 2003-2004

Applications are invited for the FEZANA SCHOLARSHIPS and the MEHRABAN DORAB KHERADI ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP FOR MERIT-FEZANA SCHOLAR. The scholarships are open to Zarathushti applicants who have obtained admission for attendance at institutions of higher learning (accredited degree-granting colleges or universities) in USA or Canada.

Scholarships: Scholarships for the academic year 2004-2005 will be awarded in September 2004. The MDK scholarship for merit will be for \$5000.

Application: Application forms are available from the FEZANA website at www.fezana.org or from Dr Dolly Dastoor dollydastoor@sympatico.ca.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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	Retirement Community Presentation ***** (2.30 START)
4	ZAGNY Religious Classes **** (2 PM START)
MAY 2004	
1	Revlon Run/Walk ** (details on the back page)
1	IZA Persian Class**** (10 AM for Adults, 11 AM for children)
2	ZAGNY Religious Classes **** (2 PM START)
8	The Rummy Game (details below)
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)

"THE RUMMY GAME" IS COMING BACK!!!

ZAGNY is sponsoring a performance of the Rummy Game on Saturday, May 8th, 2004 at the Pomona Darbe Mehr. The play is returning to the US with the well-known cast of Sabira Merchant and Hosi Vasunia. Net proceeds from this show will be donated to the PROJECT MAINSTREAM (A Project for the Street Children of Mumbai, India).

Extracted from a review of the play by Mr. Freddy Phiroz - The card-games provide the structure for the story and the sharpest characterization: Fali's rage increases at Shireen's unnatural beginners luck at Rummy and Shireen's not so demure and lady-like mannerisms. Other unseen, aged characters like the abandoning families, dishonest business partners and the other eccentric geriatrics all are discussed and dismissed. All this does not reflect the protagonists' old age goodness. In fact it presents them at time, in a rather cruel and honest light. It makes them more human. The play has a lot of questions that creep up on you subtly, spurring nagging questions that won't go away. - .

Watch future newsletters and emails for more details soon!

DONATIONS AND INFORMATION

⊙ DONATIONS

CRITICAL ASSISTANCE FUND	
2004 TOTAL	\$1,952.00
Kobad and Debra Malesra	\$ 60.00
Adam Schenck and Spenta Cama	\$ 51.00
Keky and Khorshed Mistry	\$ 30.00
Mehli Rustom	\$ 25.00
Khurshid Mehta	\$ 25.00
Sheroo Contractor	\$ 15.00
Sarosh and Nergish Hodiwalla	\$ 15.00
GENERAL FUND	
2004 TOTAL	\$4,204.10
United Way – Noshir Baria	\$ 136.92
Xerxes and Jerilyn Sarkary	\$ 51.00
Rusi Udwardia	\$ 50.00
Darayes and Roshni Bharda	\$ 50.00
Keky and Khorshed Mistry	\$ 30.00
Firoze and Khorshed Jungalwala	\$ 10.00
Uttara Asha	\$ 10.00
NEW BUILDING FUND	
2004 TOTAL	\$2,492.00
Rohinton and Navaz Dadina	\$ 200.00
Pallan and Carol Katgara	\$ 100.00
Soli and Jo Ann Dastur	\$ 60.00
Anonymous	\$ 50.00
Anonymous	\$ 50.00
Xerxes and Jerilyn Sarkary	\$ 50.00
SCHLOARSHIP FUND	
2004 TOTAL	\$1,335.00
Pallan and Carol Katgara	\$ 100.00
Anonymous	\$ 50.00
Jehangir and Daulat Vania	\$ 20.00
Sheroo Contractor	\$ 15.00
Nergish Vania	\$ 10.00
LIBRARY FUND	
2004 TOTAL	\$ 130.00

DIWALI STAMP

There is a petition to the US Postal Service to issue a Diwali stamp and 500,000 signatures are needed. To sign the petition, go to <http://www.petitiononline.com/diwali03/petition.html>

FEZANA OFFICERS FOR 2004 – 2006

FEZANA is now accepting nominations for the positions of President, Treasurer and Assistant Secretary.

Persons interested in standing for any of the positions should contact Homi Gandhi at homi_gandhi@usa.net Persons desiring to attend the AGM should visit Fezana website www.fezana.org for more details.

This newsletter will be made public on the ZAGNY web-site. If you do not want your personal information to appear on the website, please do not submit it to the newsletter for publication.

⊙ CONGRATULATIONS TO

Nenshad Bardoliwalla and Dilnawaz Kapadia on the occasion of their marriage on January 5th, 2004, in Mumbai, India.

Farhad Ranji on the occasion of his Navjote ceremony on December 23, 2003, in Pune, India.

⊙ CHANGE IN CONTACT INFORMATION

Shiroy Ranji - sranji@aol.com

Phiroza and Satish Modi
8 White Sails Drive
Newburgh, NY 12550

⊙ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Roshan Mountvala
277 Prospect Avenue
Apartment 2G
Hackensack, NJ 07601

Danesh Modi
8 White Sails Drive
Newburgh, NY 12550

Tushar Modi
8 White Sails Drive
Newburgh, NY 12550

Yasha Modi
8 White Sails Drive
Newburgh, NY 12550

Jehan and Nancy Daruwala
Apartment #1205
21050 Point Place
Aventura, FL 33180

⊙ OUR CONDOLENCES TO

Maharukh and Firdosh Mehta on the passing of her father, Bomansha D. Mithaiwalla. Mr. Mithaiwalla expired on October 5th, 2003 in Navsari, India.

Jeroo and Shiroy Ranji and family on the passing of Jeroo's father, Minu Nariman Dastur in Kolkatta, India, on January 5, 2004.

Pesi Bavaadam and family, on the passing of his sister Sheroo Dordi, in India, on February 10th, 2004.

Dilnavaz, Zarin and Zal Mirza, Dastoorji Dr. Hormazdiar Mirza and family on the passing of Jamshed Mirza He passed away in Woodstock, New York, on February 2nd, 2004.

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**	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

2004 ZAGNY MEMBERSHIP FORM

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.

This newsletter will be made public on the ZAGNY web-site. If you do not want your personal information to appear on the website, please do not submit it to the newsletter for publication.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

Ⓢ **PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS** – *Provided by Rohinton Rivetna*

The next Parliament of the World's Religions is to be held in Barcelona, Spain, July 7th to July 13th, 2004. The location is good, the food is fabulous and the program is working out to be superb. The Congress is being organized by CPWR (Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions). For more information, see the website, www.cpwr.org. There is also the availability of grants for student summer research in 2004.

These grants are for students, although those in between courses of study and those just graduating are welcome to apply. Details are available online at http://www.pluralism.org/research/student_grant.php.

Ⓢ **COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN** – *Provided by Shahrokh Mehta*

A Fezana team (Nina Bilimoria, Homi Gandhi, Aysha Ghadiali, Susan Karani, Shahrokh Mehta, Roxana Mirza, Afreed Mistry) will participate in the 48th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) to be held from March 1st to 12th, 2004 at the United Nations in New York City. The FEZANA Team will present a two-hour panel discussion on "Microfinancing - a step towards Uplifting of Women" at the United Nations, on Friday, March 5th, 2004, from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM. The event will be held at the Church Centre Building (8th Floor), across the street from the UN building (44th street). This is the first time that FEZANA will be presenting a panel discussion at the United Nations event. Those interested in joining the program and supporting the FEZANA team are welcome. For more information about the Division for the Advancement of Women at the United Nations, and details about International Women's Day 2004 please visit: www.un.org/womenwatch/daw.

Ⓢ **FLORIDA ACTIVE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY PROJECT** *Provided by Yasmin Kevala*

This project has been presented at the FEZANA AGM in 2003 and in an article in the Fall 2003 FEZANA Journal. She does not have license in real estate and does not make any profit from this project. Her purpose is to encourage Zoroastrians to start taking positive steps to form suitable retirement communities. She will be at the Pomona Darbe Mehr on April 4th at 2:30 PM.

The Retirement Community is in Sun City Center, Tampa, Florida and it provides safe, secure and inexpensive living conditions for people 55 and over. Excellent medical facilities, access to airports and salubrious climate are of course there year round. There are three types of residents there – retirees, "snowbirds" who come to Florida every winter, and a few who are working. Many Canadians and Europeans also own homes there for winter use. Many travel, take cruises, or visit relatives during the summer months. Because of the 24-hour security patrols, year-round grounds maintenance and friendly neighbors, it is quite safe to leave the homes empty for long periods. Some of course may rent out the homes when they are not there.

Tampa Bay- Orlando area has about 30 Zarathushti families who recently formed the Zoroastrian Association of Tampa Bay (ZTAMBAY). As you may know, ZTAMAY will be hosting the next FEZANA AGM in Tampa on May 29th-30th, 2004. You will get to see the entire 5,000-acre community, model homes, and pre-owned homes if you wish. We will visit Mira Bay, Apollo Beach, Brandon and Sarasota. WCI Communities (Sun City Center developers) representative Ron Cress and my associate, Joy Sparkman who has an office in Brandon, will be available to answer your questions about the area, prices and facilities. Sun City Center offers a Preferred Guest program, under which a family can stay for 3 nights for \$109 or \$39 per night for shorter stays. This includes breakfast and use of Sun City Center facilities: exercise rooms, swimming pools, sauna and tennis. Discounted round of golf is available also. If a sufficient number of people sign up to come, WCI will arrange an entertainment night and transportation by bus. This could be a very enjoyable and memorable Memorial Day holiday for the family. Note that at least one family member needs to be over 55 to own a property at SCC, but there is no age restriction in many of the surrounding developments. Even if you are not retiring now, you can get an idea about what is available. Just visit and enjoy.

Fellow Zarathushtis: let us start working together now, focusing on the happy and comfortable lives ahead of us. If you have any questions, want more information, or want to make plans to visit after the FEZANA AGM, just give me a call. Hope to hear from you soon, 301-765-0793 or yaskeval@aol.com.



ZAGNY
106 Pomona Road
Suffern, NY 10901

E-Mail
zagny_secretary@lycos.com

Phone:
845.362.2104

The **Revlon Run Walk** to fight women's cancers will be held on May 1st, 2004. ZAGNY has participated in this for the last 2 years. The event starts in Times Square and ends in Central Park. To register, go to the Revlon Run/Walk website at www.revlonrunwalk.com and register as an individual by clicking the green box in the upper left hand corner of the screen. Registering at this site requires paying the \$25.00 registration fee online, so have your credit card ready. When registering please put down our team #. We are team #1109 Zoroastrian Association of Greater NY. Once you have registered you can start getting donations. Complete details on where we will meet will be given to you via email (once you register) by your team captain Usheen Davar. Any questions should be directed to Usheen at usheen.davar@dowjones.com.

ZAGNY
106 Pomona Rd.
Suffern, NY 10901

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

**Zoroastrian
Association of
Greater New York.**