



Issue 28 – April 2006 Newsletter

ARTICLES:

Gool Kothawala Essay Contest Winners	2
FEZANA News	3
Scholarships	3
Revlon Run/Walk	4
Pedals for Progress	4
Ivy F. Gandhi Youth Camp	4
Announcements	5
Calendar of Events	8

ZAGNY BOARD:

President

HOMI GANDHI
president@zagny.org

Vice President

NAWAZ MERCHANT
vicepresident@zagny.org

Treasurer

MINOO BENGALI
treasurer@zagny.org

Secretary

KHURSHEED DUSAJ NAVDER
secretary@zagny.org

Joint Secretary

KERMAN N. DUKANDAR
jointsecretary@zagny.org

Members at Large

VISPI KANGA
vispi@zagny.org

SHERAZAD MEHTA
sherazad@zagny.org

FERZIN PATEL
ferzin@zagny.org

MICHEL REID
michel@zagny.org

NAVROZE CELEBRATION

On Saturday, March 18th 2006, ZAGNY held its annual Navroze function at the Pomona Darbe Mehr. The event drew over 230 people from the community. The evening started with an *Atash-Niyaesh* prayer ceremony performed by our mobeds, **Ervad Pervez Patel, Rohinton Madon, and Rohinton Dadina**. On behalf of the community, we'd like to thank them for their participation.

Following the Jashan, was the cocktail hour, after which President Homi Gandhi called the Annual General Meeting to order. All AGM reports went hi-tech this year and were made using power point slides. In his President's report, **Homi Gandhi** thanked the board and announced various upcoming events. Secretary, **Khursheed Navder** then presented the highlights of celebrations, achievements, and relief and support efforts from the past year. Treasurer, **Minoo Bengali** presented the 2005 Financial Statements, which were unanimously approved by the members. All reports are available on our website at www.zagny.org.



All in attendance were then entertained by our kids who put up a talent show providing a colorful array of dances, songs, instrumental music, and karate moves. Seven year old, **Natasha Dusaj** got the tempo going with her jazz dance to the popular number "Feeling hot..hot..hot" with the crowd clapping and cheering on. The **Randelia** twin sisters, **Farah and Friya** then played a beautiful duet on the violin to "May song". **Cyrus Merchant** came next and showed us some great karate moves. **Tanaz Karai** gave a beautiful solo vocal performance singing "*Chaiye Hame Zarthosti*" and even recited the meaning of the song for the benefit of many. Then it was time for some instrumental music--**Shawn Bengali** played "Ode to Joy" and **Neville Dusaj** played "Fur Elise" on the keyboard. **Spenta Bamji** then danced to Michael Jackson's popular song "Thriller", and sister **Zarina Bamji** rocked the house with her flexible moves to "Hung Up" by Madonna." The grand finale was a lively dance performance by the **Dukandar** sisters, **Jasmine and Tina** to the popular number "*Nach Baliye*." A big "THANKS" to all performers for putting up such a spectacular show.

After the entertainment, Vice President **Nawaz Merchant** announced that the ZAGNY Board was proud to nominate **Homi Gandhi** for FEZANA presidency. We wish him well in the upcoming elections (details under FEZANA news on page 3) and hope that he gets a chance to actualize his vision for FEZANA just as he continues to do so for ZAGNY.

All present enjoyed the food catered by *Alishaan* restaurant and then it was off to the dance floor. Thanks to our volunteer DJ **Dinyar Kalwachwala** for playing both English and *Desi* tunes appealing to the kiddies and oldies alike, and ensuring that the dance floor stayed packed throughout the entire evening.

Our special thanks to the **volunteer bar tenders** and all others who helped with set-up, clean-up--ensuring the overall success of the event.

THE GOOL KOTHAWALA ESSAY CONTEST

Founded by **Nawaz Merchant** in memory of her music teacher Ms. Gool Kothawala, this contest invited children (15 and under) to write a 150 word essay on 1) My Community Service Project **OR** 2) What it means to be a Zoroastrian. The prize winners were announced at the Navroze function. **Friyah Randelia** was the winner in the 6-10 age group and **Neville Dusaj** won in the 11-15 year category. We'd like to thank all children who participated—each contestant was awarded a certificate and each winner received a cash prize of \$50. We'd like to thank **Nawaz Merchant** for creating this contest and encouraging our kids to write. Our sincere appreciations also go to her mom, **Silloo Parekh** and her sister, **Khursheed Parekh** for judging the anonymous essays. The prize winning essays were read out at the Navroze function and are given below.

MY COMMUNITY SERVICE

My first community service was making a Valentine Day's card for Sunrise Nursing Home for Senior Citizens. It was a red card full of hearts. Inside the card it said, "Happy Valentines Day!" At the bottom was a heart made of fake red and white feathers.

My second community service was collecting canned goods for the local food pantry. I collected cans of peas, corn, tomato sauce, carrots and peanut butter.

My third community service was collecting pennies for Patients. I collected dollars and coins. All the money went to help people with Leukemia.

My fourth community service was making a card for a soldier in Iraq named Patrick. On my card was an army truck with Patrick looking out for danger.

My fifth community service was making Valentines for Veterans, which were delivered to local hospitals by Congressman Frelinghuysen.

These are some of the things I did for my community.

Friya Randelia, Age 9



MY SENIOR SERVICE PROJECT

I don't know if this counts as community service, but I know I felt good and kind of proud. From school we were supposed to go to the Chelsea senior citizen center in Montville.

We were asked if we would like to do something. I like to play the piano and volunteered to play. The cool thing was when I played the "Maple Leaf Rag" the seniors started clapping and joined in my music. I could tell that they had heard that jazz song and were enjoying it. I was happy to see them smile and when they clapped hard I was glad that I had not been my usual shy self and had volunteered to play for them.

Raising money for the Tsunami and then Katrina was perhaps more of a community service project but I still remember the happy smiles on the seniors' faces.

Neville Dusaj, Age 11



AIR INDIA TICKET AUCTION

Jasmin and **Maneck Kotwal** were the highest bidders for the round-trip ticket, for the auction held at the Navroze function. We'd like to thank them for making this generous bid. Money collected from this auction will go toward the critical assistance fund. We'd also like to thank **Aban Chavda** for getting **Air India** to provide ZAGNY this complimentary ticket for this auction.

NAVROZE FUNCTION RAFFLES

We would like to acknowledge the donation of the raffle items—a book by **Boman Desai** and 2 CDs from **Farobag Cooper**. We would also like to thank **Hanoz Gandhi**, a licensed pilot who donated the flight raffle which includes a 1-hour flight for two over the New York City Area---a value of over \$300. Lastly, a big "Thank you" to all the volunteers for helping with the sale of tickets.



FEZANA NEWS

The 2006 FEZANA Annual General Meeting is to be held on May 27-28, 2006 in Atlanta. Please visit www.zagny.org for details. For the 2006-2008 term, three FEZANA Executives (President, Treasurer, and Assistant Secretary) are to be elected. ZAGNY Board has nominated our President, **Homi Gandhi**, for the position of President. At present, there are two other candidates for the same position, **Hosi Mehta and Rustom Kevala**. ZAGNY Board has also supported **Katayun Kapadia**, current President of ZAPANJ, for the position of FEZANA Treasurer. All candidates' info is currently posted on the FEZANA website: www.fezana.org Please visit the website to educate further on this election. Please send your comments to ZAGNY Vice President, Nawaz Merchant, at vicepresident@zagny.org

SCHOLARSHIPS (2006-07)

ZAGNY SCHOLARSHIPS: We invite applications for financial assistance (Scholarship/Loan) for the academic year 2006-2007 from members who are studying at accredited institutions in the United States. Applicants should be full-time students. The last date for filing an application is **August 31, 2006**. Application forms and information can be obtained from the scholarship committee chairperson: Sherazad Y. Mehta, 405 West 48th Street, Apt 1FE, New York, NY 10036; Tel: 212-307-1712; Email: sherazad.mehta@arup.com

FEZANA ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS: Eligible candidates of Zarhusti faith who have demonstrated scholastic achievement and academic excellence will be awarded Mehraban and Morvarid Kheradi Endowment Scholarship for post graduate studies (Masters degree and above). Application forms are available from the FEZANA website at www.fezana.org or from Dr. Dolly Dastoor (dollydastoor@sympatico.ca). Completed application forms should be post-marked **August 1, 2006**.

WZCC-NEW YORK CHAPTER

Mr. **Rajiv Bhatia**, President of the Knights Inn, Franchise System was invited to speak on March 12th. The event was well attended and Mr. Bhatia presented the advantages of a Budget Hotel as the first stepping stone into the hospitality venture, the franchisee qualification and application, site selection criteria, project cost, franchisor support and conversion of an existing hotel/motel. He patiently answered numerous questions from the members and the guests. WZCC-NY Chapter Chairman, **Rusi Gandhi** presented Mr. Bhatia with a WZCC pin and an inaugural issue of SynergyZ Journal and also thanked **Meher** and **Dinyar Hodiwala** for inviting the speaker and coordinating the meeting.

NEXT WZCC meeting is on NETWORKING AND ENTREPRENEUR DAY, June 4th, 2006. Please book your table early if you would like to participate as an exhibitor. This year WZCC-NY Chapter will introduce Resource Booth to assist job seekers and offer career counseling. Please contact amaneksha@aol.com for more information.

WZCC-AGM & CONFERENCE will be on January 5th to 7th, 2007 at North Point Center in Khandala, India. Showcasing of young entrepreneurs, financing avenues for businesses, success stories by entrepreneurs, new project offerings for young entrepreneurs will be the topic of discussion. Additionally, the WZCC-NY Chapter is pleased to announce that **Framroze Patel** and **Rusi Gandhi** have been elected World Directors of the WZCC beginning in 2007. **Arnaz Maneckshana**, currently Public Relations Director, will become Chapter Chair of WZCC NY Chapter.

ADVERTISE IN YOUR ZAGNY NEWSLETTER

Expand your market by advertising in the ZAGNY newsletter and at the same time help us defray a part of the cost of printing and mailing. Our newsletter covers the tri-state area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut and is also made available to other associations. You may even sponsor a newsletter. The subscriptions for the advertisements are as follows:

Single Issue

Quarter Page

\$30

Half Page

\$50

Full Page

\$80

Yearly subscription (for 8 issues per year)

\$200

\$350

\$550

For more information, please contact us at secretary@zagny.org.

If you would like to announce an event that will occur within the next 3 months or to make a general announcement in the ZAGNY newsletter, please email us at secretary@zagny.org

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

REVLON RUN/WALK FOR WOMEN

On **Saturday, May 6th** the Zoroastrian Association of Greater NY will participate in the annual **Revlon Run/Walk for Women** in the fight to help eradicate women's cancers. Men, women and children are invited to join us raise awareness and critical funds for women's cancer research, counseling and outreach programs.

Over the past 4 years, with the participation of ZAGNY members, their families and friends, we have raised well over \$25,000 for this cause. Once again, we will be participating as a "team" for this event. The event is in New York City and participants can choose to run or walk this 5k race. It starts in Times Square and ends in Central Park. Our team usually meets at a specified location at 8:30 am. Exact location details will be sent to you via email 2 weeks prior to the event.

To register, please log onto <https://www.revlonrunwalk.com> and click on **Teams** on the red tool bar to the left of the site's home page. Next, click on **Register Now**. Please fill out the form and as you get to the bottom of the page, make sure you enter our team # to ensure that you are registered under our team umbrella. The team name is **Zoroastrian Association of Greater NY** and the **team number is 1109**. Registration is \$25 and includes your registration fee, a t-shirt, and a gift bag. Proceeds from the Revlon Run/Walk for Women are distributed to a variety of charitable organizations leading the fight against women's cancers.

We encourage you, your family and friends to join our team to help raise funds and to support the thousands of women who have fought this disease, are currently battling it, and the ones who have unfortunately lost their lives because of it. This is a very important cause and we thank you in advance for your support.

If you have any questions, please call team captain **Usheen Davar** via email at usheen@aol.com or via phone at 212-472-3171.

PEDALS FOR PROGRESS



Did you know that your old bicycles could mean a new quality of life for those less fortunate?

What: A collection of donated bicycles to be sent overseas.

Where: Darbe Meher Pomona, NY

When: May 7, 2005

Time: 1pm - 5pm

For more information contact:

Jasmine Dukandar --> (732)-494-7976

ANNUAL IVY F. GANDHI ZOROASTRIAN YOUTH CAMP

JUNE 9-11

Summer is just around the corner and our children are eagerly looking forward to partake in yet another exciting camp adventure. So far we already have 28 kids registered! Camp will start at 6 pm on Friday, June 9th and will end at the start of our Religion class on Sunday June 11th. The cost is \$40 per child. If you are interested in attending please email **Anahaita Kotval** at Anahaita.Kotval@rbsgc.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS:

- **Shirin Zarir Unvala** and her younger brother (by 2 minutes) **Dinyar Zarir Unvala**, were born on Sunday, February 26th to **Shiraz** and **Zarir Unvala**. Congratulations to Hilla and Darius Antia as first time grand parents and Bapsy and Hoshang Unvala as veteran grandparents, followed by *Foos* (aunts) Veera and Sheila, cousins- Cyrus, Jennifer, Leila and Brianna, and *Mama* (uncle) Shehriyar.
- **Cyrus Shroff** was born on March 6th to **Sammy** and **Zarine Shroff**. Cyrus is grandson to Fali and Pervin Shroff and Adil and Pinks Makhania.
- **Azarin Michel Reid** was born to **Tanaz Dutia** and **Michel Reid** on March 30th. Azarin is granddaughter to Minu and Behroz Dutia and Doris and Rufus Reid. May Ahura Mazda bless the new addition to the family.

CONDOLENCES:

- To Kamal Davar, Astad Clubwala and their families on the death of their sister-in-law and cousin, Rashna Mehta, age 49, who passed away in Toronto, Canada on March 11th.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

- **Aban Chavda and Harry Sadarangani**: 139 Riverwalk Way, Clifton, NJ 07014. Tel: (973) 777-1984
- **Khursheed and Burgise Palkhiwala**: 640 Winding River Road, Brick, NJ 08724. Tel: (732) 206-9859
- **Khurshid and Armin Choksey**: 7312 Boulevard East, Apt 5H, North Bergen, New Jersey 07047.
- **Rusi Gandhi**: New email address: rusigandhi@gmail.com. For all business related correspondence please continue to use rusigandhi@remax.net
- **Homi Gandhi**: New email address: homidgandhi@gmail.com
- **Navroz Gandhi**: Correct email address: ngandhi@mba2001.hbs.edu

THANKS:

- Dear friends—Thank you very much for your generous donation this year to the American Cancer Society. With your help, I was able to raise over \$900 this year. It really does mean a lot to me so I sincerely thank you all for your continuous support. **Avan Patel**.

- As you know I am with the U.S. Army in Iraq. I had approached my ZAGNY community and friends, to send old clothes for the poor kids out here. I am truly touched by the tremendous response and want to assure you that your donated clothes have been put to good use by the children. At present we have received sufficient clothes and the kids are grateful for this kind gesture towards them. Thanks again and God Bless you all for the Good Thoughts, Words and Deeds, towards these kids. **Eric Chavda**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

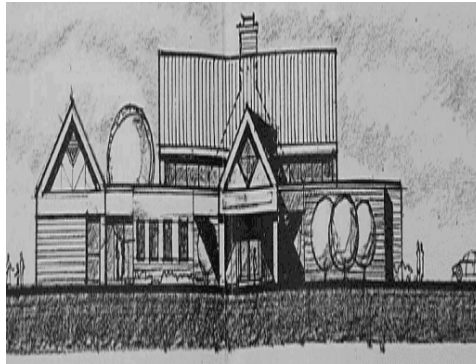
- Our heartfelt THANKS to Mr. **Parviz Najmi and his family** for having renovated our Darbe Mehr's kitchen in its entirety. We are extremely grateful for this wonderful donation to our community. We're all inspired by your generosity and our community is very proud of you.

- Thanks to **Rumy Shroff** for donating 50 *Topis*, and to **Khurshid Mehta**, and **Aban Chavda** for donation of *Sukhad* for the Darbe Mehr.

Win a Mercedes Benz (C280 4Matic)
in the ZACUCE Raffle on Oct 28 and support the
Zarathushti Cultural Center of Delaware Valley

Prize Drawing on
Oct. 28, 2006 at
Bombay Cuisine 2389 Rte 70 West,
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

\$100 Raffle Tickets are available from
Percis Bansal, 609 799 4537
Percis54@hotmail.com



Other Amazing Prizes!

- 2 tickets to India/Europe
- 42-Inch Plasma/LCD TV
- 2 Cruise tickets
- Persian Carpet valued at \$1200
- One Gift Certificate \$500
- Ten Gift Certificates \$100 each



Nobody Makes Traveling to India
Easier Than Air-India.

MORE direct flights
from more
U.S. cities.

MORE service to
more cities
in India.

For schedules and reservations,
see your travel agent or call **1-800-223-7776**.

www.airindia.com



एअर इंडिया
AIR-INDIA



World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce (WZCC)
NEW YORK CHAPTER
106 Pomona Road, Suffern, NY 10901 (845)362-2104



PRESENTS

THE SECOND ANNUAL

ENTREPRENEUR & NETWORKING DAY

Sunday, June 4th, 2006
From 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

A special WELCOME to last year's exhibitors.

All WZCC, ZAGNY & IZA members and guests are invited to attend.

Exhibitors: This is a unique and effective opportunity to advertise your business, goods and services. Any profession and industry is welcome to participate. There is no fee to enroll if you are a ZAGNY, IZA or WZCC member. Your participation at this event will be very rewarding. Together we can grow our businesses. We can support and strengthen our TriState Zarathushti community.

Resource Booth: The highlight of this year's event is to assist job seekers. Career counseling and mentoring will be available to help you succeed. Please call us if you would like to volunteer as a mentor.

Contact: Arnaz Maneckshana at amanecksha@aol.com or Meher Hodiwala at mhod@novonordisk.com for information. Please reserve your space and table by May 15, 2006.

Join us for refreshments, corporate promotional mementos, prizes and lots more.

Mission Statement: The Chamber's mission is to energize Zarathushti entrepreneurial spirit in countries thru' out the world through a network of businesses and professionals.

WZCC annual Membership fee: Corporate \$100, Individual \$50, Student \$20.

Contact: Noshir Dutia at noshd@hotmail.com

ZAGNY
106 Pomona Road
Suffern, NY 10901

Phone
845.362.2104

E-Mail
secretary@zagny.org

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 2006

5/6	REVLON RUN/WALK
5/7	DMZT AGM (12 PM)
	ZAGNY RELIGIOUS CLASSES (1 PM)
	PEDALS FOR PROGRESS
5/27-28	FEZANA AGM, ATLANTA, GA

JUNE 2006

6/4	WZCC ENTREPRENEUR & NETWORKING DAY
6/9—11	IVY F. GANDHI SUMMER YOUTH CAMP
6/11	ZAGNY RELIGIOUS CLASSES (1 PM)

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR ZAGNY MEMBERSHIP FOR 2006?

A big "THANK YOU" to those of you who have already sent in your 2006 membership form and payment. For those of you who have not registered yet, please renew your membership as soon as possible. If you have misplaced your membership form, you can download it from our ZAGNY website www.zagny.org.

ZAGNY
106 Pomona Rd.
Suffern, NY 10901

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.zagny.org