



Issue 33 – January 2007 Newsletter

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NAVROOZ RELATED ACTIVITIES

Our **Jamshedi Navrooz** is just around the corner. Whether you like to refer to it as **Navroze** or **Navrooz**, or **Nowruz** or **Norouz**... (I would have liked to exercise my prerogative and use **Navroze** since that's the spelling I grew up with, but the consensus is to be unified and to universally use **Navrooz** from now on). This year we have **TWO** programs planned, so do read on...

NAVROOZ DAY RECEPTION

Wed., March 21, 4:30 pm

This year ZAGNY, in keeping with FEZANA and other associations to increase publicity for Navrooz (spelling FEZANA prefers to use), will host a "Navrooz Day Reception" at the Darbe Mehr on March 21st itself. With various Zoroastrian associations of North America celebrating Navrooz with a uniform program we wish to draw publicity and give more exposure to our community and faith.

Various interfaith leaders will be invited and we hope to see many of our ZAGNY members at this event. The function will start at 4:30 pm with prayers and a short program. Reception will follow thereafter. Since it's a week day we will make sure that the entire event will complete within 2 hours. Please show your support by participating in this milestone event. Kindly RSVP to **Kerman Dukandar** at jointsecretary@zagny.org if attending.

NAVROOZ CELEBRATION

Sat., March 24, 5:30 pm

Please join ZAGNY in the Navrooz celebration on Saturday, March 24th 2007. We have a fun filled program, and all are encouraged to attend.

So please avoid the late surcharge and kindly mail the registration form to reach us by **March 16**. Do note that too many last minute registrations have precluded us from adequately planning for food and other details and hence we are going to strictly adhere to RSVP deadlines. Please help us serve you better by registering early. For additional details and to register, please turn to **page 7**.

NAVROOZ DAY PARADE

Sun. March 25, 12 pm

The fourth "Persian Parade" in celebration of Navrooz Day is expected to draw tens of thousands of participants and spectators in New York City. The Parade procession will march on Madison Avenue starting at 41st street and ending at 27th street. The Parade promptly begins at 12:00 noon. However, participants are requested to be present at 10 am. Please contact **Homi Gandhi** at president@zagny.org for more information and registration.

WANTING A RIDE TO THE DARBE MEHR???

If you need a ride from the city, please contact **Shahnaz Shroff** (shahnaz@zagny.org) or **Vispi Kanga** (vispi@zagny.org).

ZAGNY BOARD:

President

HOMI GANDHI
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NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

*'Twas the night before New Year,
When all through our Darbe Mehr,
Not a creature was willing to leave,
Not even when it was past 2 am!!*

Yes, even Clement C. Moore could not have kept things down at our 2006 New Year's Eve gala. We ZAGNYites sure know how to party and what a party it was for the 140 odd guests that attended. MC, **Farokh Daruwala** got the evening rolling with numerous contests/competitions and DJ, DK (aka **Dinyar Kalwachwala**) showed no mercy to our high heel clad aching feet, begging to get a minute's respite!

Sheroo Kanga's delicious spread containing items like *Patra Ni Machchi*, *Pulao Dar*, *Kid Gos* and *Lagan Nu Custard* left even the most jaded palates happy and hungry for more.



had an enjoyable evening. It is indeed good to know when folks feel that they got their money's worth and that **PAISA** was indeed **VASOOL!**



As the countdown began we bade farewell to 2006 with good ol' *Auld Lang Syne* and rang in 2007 with feet moving, arms flailing, blood pumping, heart stomping music.

Our 50-50 raffle winner of the night was **Arnaz Maneckshana** who started off her new year on a charitable foot and donated her entire winnings to ZAGNY. Several others also participated in auctions, proceeds of which will go toward the ZAGNY funds. We also celebrated the 1st Birthday of baby **Delara Cama**—both sets of proud grandparents **Edul** and **Niloufer Daver**, and **Rohinton** and **Mahrukh Cama**, cut the cake which was then enjoyed by all.

We'd like to extend a big Thanks to **Mehru Cama** and **Kashmira Dutia** for taking the time to let us know they

2007 GOOL KOTHAWALA ESSAY CONTEST

By Nawaz Merchant

Friends, This year we're going to give you plenty of time to write your essays!

Subjects: 1) "No, in fact, I'm Zoroastrian" (An unusual personal story about telling a new friend that you are a Zoroastrian.); and 2) What I learned from my grandparent

Essays should be personal and anecdotal rather than theoretical. MS-Word format preferred (it does the word count as well!) The essay should be about 150 words, and should be emailed to vicepresident@ZAGNY.org with Name, Contact number, and Age of participant, on or before **Feb 20th 2007**. Essays will be judged in two categories, the under-10 age group and the 11-15 age group. One first prize of \$50 will be awarded in each category. All entries are the property of The Gool Kothawala Essay Competition, and may be printed in future editions of the ZAGNY newsletter.

Students must submit original work, and be current members of ZAGNY. Please no "excessive" helping by parents- Judges will detect adult intervention, or paragraphs lifted from the internet, and it will not benefit the contestant.

Judging: Contestants names will be masked from the judges. Of course, the judges decision is final. Please email me if you have any questions, at vicepresident@ZAGNY.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS

ZAGNY is very proud to introduce one of our own, Commander **Kurush F. Morris** as the first Zoroastrian Commanding Officer of **USS Taylor**. Kurush assumed command of USS Taylor (FFG 50) in December 2006. Kurush and Pashang Patel were the first recipients of the Zoroastrian religious emblem, which encouraged and promoted our "Good Life" program. Kurush is the son of Zahver and Fred Morris, long time members of ZAGNY, who have moved recently to Jacksonville, Florida. Kurush's brothers, Murzban and Bezan, also joined the US Navy after graduating from Annapolis Naval Academy.

YOUNG MOBEDS:

We take pride in congratulating our 3 new priests--**Karl Khambatta (Martab)**, **Farhad Ranji** and **Bejan Madon**. Each of them will be honored at our Navrooz celebration on Sat. March 24th.

BIRTHS:

•Born to Soonoo & Porus Aria on Friday December 22, 2006 a baby girl, **Dina Aria**, in New Jersey. Grand daughter to Katy Aria and Roda & Eruch Sumariwalla of Bombay.

•Born to Mehzabin and Hormazd Pochara on Tuesday, November 28 2006, 7:41am, a baby girl **Shania Pochara**, in NJ.



CONDOLENCES:

•Narges Pese Mehta, mother of late Villy, mother-in-law of Homi, and grandmother of Hanoz and Navroz Gandhi, passed away in Pune, India on December 7, 2006.

•Zarin Limathwalla, sister of Goolcher Khambatta passed away in Mumbai, India on December 16th, 2006.

•Mrs. Zarin Nariman Wadiwalla (85), mother of Freny Mehrerouz Rabadi and mother-in-law of Ervad Dr. Meheroz Rabadi, passed away in Karachi on December 21st, 2006.



CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Rosy & Jimmy Rustomji, 259 Mariomi Road, New Canaan CT 06840, Home Tel. No. 203-966-5084.

THANKS:

•To **Darayes** and **Roshni Bharda** and **Rohinton** and **Mahrukh Cama** for their generous donation of wine bottles.

•To **Ervad Mehraban Zartoshty** for donation of books sent by K R Cama Oriental Institute with compliments of the Zartoshty Brothers (late Faridoon & Mehraban) for the ZAGNY Library.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

YOUNG ZOROASTRIANS ATTENDING COMMISSION ON STATUS OF WOMEN: A new group of young Zoroastrians is to attend the 51st session of the Commission on Status of Women (CSW) at United Nations Headquarters in New York from February 26 to 9 March 2007. They are **Yasna** (7) and **Gordiya Khademian** (11) from Washington DC, **Sherri Billimoria** (15) from Palo Alto, California, **Tina** (14) and **Jasmine Dukandar** (17) from New Jersey. As they are below 18, their respective parents will accompany them. They are joined by **Shefukeh Zonji** from Canada who is currently working with an NGO in Mexico and **Ferzeen Chhapgar** from Palo Alto, California.

FEZANA AGM 2007: Twentieth Annual General Meeting (AGM) of FEZANA will be held April 6 – 8 at Spring Hill Suites Dallas DFW Airport North/Grapevine, 2240 W. Grapevine Mills Circle, Grapevine, Texas 76051. This year positions of Vice President and Secretary are to be elected. Members desiring to run for either of these positions should contact the ZAGNY board. For more information contact FEZANA secretary Rita Engineer: ritaengineer@yahoo.com and ZANT representative Firdosh Mehta: fdjmehta@charter.net.

XIV North American Zoroastrian Congress--June 29-July 2, 2007: The Zoroastrian Society of Ontario (ZSO) will be hosts this year for "IMPACT – Unleash the Spark Within!"--*An innovative look at how Zoroastrianism has impacted our world*. For more information and registration please visit: www.zoro-impact.com. **Early bird registration deadline is Jan. 31, 2007.**

THE WORLD ZOROASTRIAN CHAMBER OF CONGRESS

December 10, 2006

Submitted by **Rusi Gandhi**

This December saw a remarkable day as no other at WZCC. Three things gave the New York Chapter audience of over 50 people an event to remember. People were enthused over a talk from **Mr. Dinyar Devitre**, Senior VP and CFO of the Altria Group, the inauguration of **Ms. Arnaz Maneckshana** as the next WZCC-NY Chapter Chair, and with the farewell address of **Mr. Rusi Gandhi**, Chapter Founder and Chair 2001-2006. Honors were given, as well as prayers led by **Ervad Pervez Patel** and a fine lunch from **Sheroo Kanga**.



Mr Dinyar Devitre, his wife Aashish, son Zal, and his cousin Rusi Devitre spent the day with the New York Chapter. Mr. Devitre was the featured speaker for "Climbing the Corporate Ladder" and outlined insights for success in corporate life. After introduction from **Ms. Persis Pavri**, Devitre explained there is no single way to climb the corporate ladder. In vigorous Q&A with the engaged audience, Devitre fielded social concerns with reasonable perspectives. Taking an imperfect situation and managing it for improvement is part of his métier. Mr. and Mrs. Devitre received honors from WZCC-NY, WZCC pins and a copy of SynergyZ Journal.

The Chapter was put into the very capable hands of Ms. Arnaz Maneckshana. She served as a Public Relations Coordinator for the Chapter for the last five years. She has good plans for future chapter work, including support for women in business. She took charge with an engraved gavel, a gift to her and the NY Chapter from Mr. Rusi Gandhi. As he delivered his farewell speech, Rusi Gandhi was grateful for help of many parties in founding the New York Chapter and for his election as a World Director. **Edul Daver**, a guiding force for Rusi, gave a speech of most sincere, deep, and warming praise for Rusi's work and the Dutia's sent a fine letter. The New York Chapter gave Rusi a plaque to honor his work. When inaugurated as a World Director at WZCC's Annual General Meeting, AGM, in Mumbai on January 7 2007, Rusi will oversee and coordinate activities of Chapters across the World. The position as a World Director will allow Rusi to use the acumen and negotiating skill culled from his experience in real estate entrepreneurship to a good end.

In a first for WZCC and with great "Masterstroke" aplomb, Rusi also introduced the person soon to join him as his life-partner, **Dr. Natalie Vania** of Springfield, Illinois. She is also a founding member of WZCC. Rousing cheers and good wishes were in abundance on the happy December day.

Next WZCC, NY Chapter meeting will be held on **March 11, 2007** at the Darbe Mehr. Guest speaker: **Gool Thakarar**, Sr. V.P. Human Resources of financial company will give a workshop on: "**Effective resume writing and interviewing skills.**" Gool has worked in a variety of industries and with companies such as General Electric, GlaxoSmithKline and Countrywide Financial Corporation

ZAGNY FELICITATES OUR 2006 NY CITY MARATHON RUNNERS

Jamshed Ghadiali and **Firdaus Dotiwala** were invited to our Jan 7th Religion Class.

Both children and adults alike were inspired by their love for the sport and personal stories that led and motivated them to run this 26.2 mile race. This was the first race for Jamshed while it was the 7th for Firdaus. Many in the audience were enthused by their focus and discipline, and had several questions regarding their training and experiences.

ZAGNY President **Homi Gandhi** thanked them for taking the time to come and speak to us and presented them with a *Monajat* CD to express our appreciation.



2007 REVLON RUN/WALK

May 5, 2007

The 10th Annual Revlon Run/Walk will be on Sat. May 5, 2007. Join the ZAGNY team in the fight against women's cancer. To register go to www.revlonrunwalk.com/ny and search for ZAGNY Team no. 1109. for more information call **Sheroo Kanga** at 201-227-1890.

ZARATHUSHTI ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The Zarathushti Oral History Project is looking for volunteers to help publicize the project, identify volunteers, and coordinate interviews within FEZANA associations.

Objective: The Zarathushti Oral History Project is an effort to document our heritage as Zarathushtis. The aim of the project is for youth to interview Zarathushtis, especially seniors, and record their oral histories for posterity. We plan to excerpt interviews for the Fall 2007 issue of the FEZANA Journal. Second, we hope that it will stimulate youth interest in their heritage and culture.

Example Topics: Topics for discussion—historical, cultural, and religious in nature—are diverse and unlimited. Examples include: Life in a Gujarati or Iranian village, village customs and traditions, life in India and Iran during the Second World War, Parsis in the Indian independence movement and newly independent India and Pakistan, migrations from Yazd and Kerman to Tehran, or from rural Gujarat to towns in Gujarat to cities all over India, Zoroastrianism in the Pahlavi era, reasons for migrating to North America, and how early Zarathushti immigrants adjusted to life outside of their homelands.

Interviewees: Interviewees are the heart of this project. We need people who are willing and interested to share their experiences and recollections of personal and historic events, describe daily life when they were children, as well as their migration stories.

Interviewers: Although we encourage anyone to participate as interviewers, we are especially looking for youth participation to foster interest in their family and community heritage. Ideally, this project could be integrated into the religious classes offered within associations. Youth participation in the project may fulfill community service requirements in some schools.

Local Coordinators: We are looking for people to help coordinate interviews in their area. The project contacts listed below will mail interviewers suggested topics and questions and notes about how to take oral histories. Inputs, suggestions, and comments related to this project are greatly appreciated. We do hope that you can help make the Zarathushti Oral History project a success!

Contacts: Nawaz Merchant (ZAGNY), nawazmerchant@yahoo.com, Hormuzd Katki (ZAMWI), hkatki@gmail.com, Dinyar Patel (ZAMWI), dinyar.patel@gmail.com

ZAGNY YOUTH NETWORKING GROUP

The NYC Zoroastrian group is a network of over 100 Zoroastrian young-adults throughout New York City and the surrounding areas. The group brings fellow Parsi and Iranian Zoroastrians (aged 18-35 yrs old) together through social and cultural events. The group evolved in response to the large number of young Zoroastrians living in New York City and is currently organized by Gustad Mody and Kaizad Cama. Recent events have included monthly sushi dinners, bar nights, and a lecture by Professor Irani. We also keep members posted on related South Asian and Persian events in New York City, as well as occasionally hold joint events with the Philadelphia and Washington, DC Zoroastrian youth groups. The NYC Zoroastrians welcome nearby Zoroastrian young-adults to join our group. To be added to the email list and be kept informed of upcoming events, send an email to: zoroastriangroupnyc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com or email Kaizad at klcama@gmail.com

4th WORLD ZOROASTRIAN YOUTH CONGRESS, BALLARAT, AUSTRALIA DECEMBER 27, 2007 - JANUARY 3, 2008

Another advantage of being a ZAGNY member! ZAGNY youth members desiring to attend this Congress can obtain upto \$500 towards your travel cost. ZAGNY will award \$250 to each qualified participant and forward the names to FEZANA for its matching contribution. Please follow the information and guidelines on ZAGNY website www.zagny.org and FEZANA website www.fezana.org. **The application (including essay) must be submitted no later than February 28, 2007 by email to president@zagny.org.**

DONATIONS

Donors	New Building	General	Scholarship	Critical Assistance	Good Life
Anonymous			50		
Antia, Darius and Hilla		150			
Aria, Porus and Soonoo				50	
Bamji, Dolat		20			
Bengali, Minoo and Dinaz			51		
Bharda, Darayes and Roshni				105	
Bharucha, Darius and Sherna				60	
Bodhanwala, Shahrookh and Aban		25		25	
Cama, Lovji and Mehru				101	
Cooper, Porus					30
Darowalla, Maneck and Najoo		40			
Dastur, Nari and Dinoo				100	
Dastur, Kavsy and Barbara		61			
Daver, Edul and Niloufer	900				
Daver, Virasp (United Way)				57.68	
Deboo, Shanaya	51				
Devitre, Dinyar and Aashish				200	
Dinshaw, Bomi and Nina	100				
Dubash, Darius and Mehru		100			
Dukandar, Kerman and Jasely			51		
Dutia, Noshir and Kashmira		200		300	
Gandhi, Navroz	20		20	21	
Gandhi, Navroz (United Way Check)			2,000	3,000	
Hakim, Lovji and Rupy	50	50	50	50	
				50	
Jamshidian, Darius		300			
Kanga, Vispi and Sheroo				101	
Kapadia, Rohinton and Roshni		20	35		
Katgara, Pallan and Carol			150		
Kotwal, Maneck and Jasmin	100				
Lalkaka, Kerman and Melissa	10				
Langrana, Noshir and Dinaz		40			
Malesra, Kobad and Debra				55	
Mama, Kayomarz and Katayun			100	50	
Mehta, Khurshid and Yezdi			25	25	
Mehta, Khurshed and Freny				21	
Merchant, Hoshi and Nawaz			100	1,500	
Moore, James and Kay (in memory of Jim Mody)				50	
Navder, Khursheed and Shailendra Dusaj				101	
Neville, Vincent and Maharukh			50		
Patel, Armaity				150	
Patel, Farokh and Dominique	50	100		50	
Saklatwalla, Vira		50			
Saraf, Thrity and Sharad		43		43	
Shroff, Fali					22
Shroff, Khurshroo					15
Shroff, Phil and Dhun				50	
Tavaria, Soli and Naju				55	
Udwadia, Viraf and Katy			101	200	
Udwadia, Dianne			51		
Vesuna, Sarosh					30
TOTAL	\$1,281	\$1,199	\$2,834	\$6,570.68	\$97

Navrooz Mubarak

The Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York
Cordially invites you to celebrate Navrooz

on

Sat., March 24, 2007

At the Darbe Mehr - Suffern, NY

PROGRAM:

5:00	REGISTRATION
5:30	ATASH NIAYESH PRAYER
6:00	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
6:30	APPETIZERS
7:30	ENTERTAINMENT
8:30	DINNER AND DANCING



Family Name: _____

_____ ADULT MEMBERS	\$30.00	_____
_____ CHILDREN (5 - 12)	\$20.00	_____
_____ SENIOR CITIZENS (OVER 65)	\$20.00	_____
_____ CHILDREN (under 5)	FREE	_____
_____ NON MEMBERS	\$40.00	_____

TOTAL: _____

PLEASE SEND YOUR RESERVATION BY March 16

No phone reservations will be taken after that date

Surcharge of \$15.00 per person and \$25.00 per family will apply to all
registrations done at the door

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO ZAGNY

Mail to:

Treasurer, MINOO BENGALI

1124 Indian Hill Road, Toms River, NJ 08753

ZAGNY
106 Pomona Road
Suffern, NY 10901

Phone
845.362.2104

E-Mail
secretary@zagny.org

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

<u>FEBRUARY 2007</u>	
2/4	ZAGNY RELIGIOUS CLASSES (1 PM)
<u>MARCH 2007</u>	
3/4	ZAGNY RELIGIOUS CLASSES (1 PM)
3/11	WZCC NEW YORK CHAPTER MEETING (12 PM)
3/21	NAVROOZ DAY RECEPTION (4:30 PM)
3/24	NAVROOZ FUNCTION (5:30 PM)
3/25	NAVROOZ DAY PARADE (12 PM)
<u>APRIL 2007</u>	
4/1	ZAGNY RELIGIOUS CLASSES (1 PM)
<u>MAY 2007</u>	
5/5	REVLON RUN/WALK
5/6	ZAGNY RELIGIOUS CLASSES (1 PM)
<u>JUNE 2007</u>	
6/8-10	IVY F. GANDHI ZOROASTRIAN YOUTH CAMP (DETAILS TO FOLLOW)
6/10	ZAGNY RELIGIOUS CLASSES (1 PM)

RENEWED YOUR ZAGNY MEMBERSHIP FOR 2007?

A big "THANK YOU" to those of you who have already renewed your 2007 membership. For those of you who have not renewed or paid, please revive your membership as soon as possible. The membership form can be found in the Nov. 2006 newsletter, or can be downloaded from our website: www.zagny.org

ZAGNY
106 Pomona Rd.
Suffern, NY 10901

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.zagny.org