



Issue 36—July 2007 Newsletter

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MUKTAD PRAYERS

August 15-19 2007

Our Zoroastrian community is invited to participate in the Muktad Prayers for all five days from August 15th through August 19th, 2007. In order to accommodate workday schedules, ZAGNY is offering the community prayer services in several locations around the tri-state area with the generous help from some of our members. Our thanks go out to the host families who have graciously volunteered their homes and to the Priests who have kindly agreed to perform the prayers.

The muktad prayers at the Darbe Mehr will be held on Sunday August 19th at 11:00 AM. This will be sponsored by Yasmin and Jamshed Ghadiali in memory of Khorshed Jungalwala. Those wishing to donate, make your check payable to ZAGNY-Memo "For Khorshed Jungalwala Lecture Series". Lunch will be served after the prayers.

Our Mobeds will recite submitted names on all five days at the following locations:

Date	Wednesday August 15	Thursday August 16	Friday August 17	Saturday August 18	Sunday August 19
Place	Waldwick, NJ	Ringoes, NJ	Long Island, NY	Queens, NY	Pomona, NY
Time	6:30 pm	6:30 pm	6:30 pm	6:15 pm	11:00 am
Hosted By	Pervin & Fali Shroff	Nawaz & Hoshi Merchant	Yasmin & Jamshed Ghadiali	Teshtar & Noshir Irani	Yasmin & Jamshed Ghadiali

Please complete the form on page 6 of this newsletter and mail to reach us by **August 8th**. Should you have any other questions, please contact **Vispi Kanga** (201-227-1890) or **Ferzin Patel** (845-354-5163).

ZAGNY SUMMER PICNIC

Sunday, July 29, 2007

IT'S ALMOST PICNIC TIME!!! Come join us with kids and families for our annual ZAGNY picnic at the Shepherd **Lake Recreation Area** located in **Ringwood State Park** (Ringwood, NJ). The spring-fed waters of the 74-acre Shepherd Lake offer swimming, boating, canoeing fishing, hiking trails etc. The park is open from 8:00am to 8:00PM daily. **THERE IS NO RESERVED SPACE SO PLEASE ARRIVE EARLY.** Some of us will try and get there around 9 am to save a few tables for our ZAGNY group. Since the park does not allow signs, we will have someone meet you in the parking area to direct you to the picnic location. There is no per person admission charge, however the park charges a parking fee of \$10.00 per car.

Bring your favorite potluck picnic dish (enough to share with 8-10 people), and come prepared to have a great time! Grills are available for cook-outs. ZAGNY will provide watermelon, iced tea, hot tea and charcoal for the cook out. Call **Ferzin Patel** (845-354-5163), **Kerman** (732-494-7976), or **Vispi** (201-227-1890), if you plan to attend.

On the day of the picnic, once you are in the park, **Ferzin, Kerman** and **Vispi** will have their cell phones switched on in case you need directions to the picnic area. **(Cell numbers for day of picnic: Ferzin Patel-845-216-1368, Kerman-732-742-2275, Vispi-201-248-7208.** Additional details are on the Park's website <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/ringwood.html>. **So folks, do mark your calendars and plan to join us at our annual picnic!**

ZAGNY BOARD

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vicepresident@zagny.org

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PATETI FUNCTION Saturday, Aug 25th

ZAGNY will hold its Pateti function at the Pomona Darbe Mehr on Saturday, Aug 25th. We have a fun filled program and all are encouraged to attend.

Registration will start at 5:15 PM. The program will begin with an "Atash Niayesh" prayer at 5:30 PM, followed by cocktails, between 6 and 7 PM ONLY. Once the cocktail hour has closed, we have entertainment, including a play by our Religion class students and award ceremony. This will be followed by good old Parsi *bhonu* and dancing. Please avoid the late surcharge and kindly mail the registration form ([page 7](#)) to reach us by **August 19th**.

WANTING A RIDE TO THE DARBE MEHR FOR THE PATETI FUNCTION???

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

Fund-Raiser Sale for Sudrehs

In order to shore up the Critical Assistance Fund, ZAGNY is holding a fund-raiser sale of Sudrehs during the early part of our Annual Pateti Event on August 25th. Sudrehs for men, women, girls and boys (three sizes each) will be available. Sudrehs have been purchased from the Dadar Parsi Youth Association and some were made by the seniors in the Parsi General Old Age Home. Prices will be: Adult sudreh \$5, and children's sudreh \$4. In addition, a small number of embroidered *kurtis* will also be available. Please see **Nawaz Merchant**, **Percis Daruwala** or **Khursheed Bellihomji** for assistance.

NORTH AMERICAN MOBED COUNCIL 2007

May 19, 2007

By Homi Gandhi

Our sister association, ZAPANJ, hosted the 2007 North American Mobed Council (NAMC) Seminar at Gibson House Community Center in Marlton, New Jersey, titled "Passage of Time and its influence on Zarathushtrian Tradition". A gathering of over 50 people, including Ervads from Toronto, Montreal, Boston, and Washington DC. joined the local community priests and laity to enjoy and learn the Zarathushtrian history from the early beginnings to the present day life.

Ervad Dr. Jehan Bagli gave a running commentary with **Ervad Soli Dastur's** Power Point presentation on "Zarathushtrian Connection in Pishdadian and Kyanian" era. Thereafter **Ervad Cawas Desai** took us through the "Rise of Zarathushtrian faith in the Achaemenian times". **Ervad Brigadier Behram Panthaki** enlightened us about the "Revival of Zarathushtrian faith in Sasanian" era. And **Ervad Gustad Panthaki** rounded up the presentation with his scholastic work on the evolution of "Zarathushtrian faith in the post-exilic era in India". This historic presentation was woven with two part DVD presentation of "Farohar Episode of History of Iranshah Fire."

This was interesting and informative but I wish that this DVD carried more pictorial journey than descriptive aspects. The highlight of the seminar was ZAGNY's new navar, **Ervad Bezan Madon's** humorous talk on "Personal Experiences of Navar Ceremony and Thoughts on Future as Mobed".

At the end of the day, I felt overwhelmed learning the whole history of Zarathushtrian faith in a single day. And in the process we all enjoyed the warm hospitality of ZAPANJ members with plenty of tasty home cooked meals throughout the day. Thank you Ervads and Thank you ZAPANJ!

ATTENTION PROFESSORS!!

Prof. Farrokh Mistree of Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, is interested in creating a roster of professors in North America who are willing to assist young Zarathushtris gain a university education. Accordingly, those professors interested in this initiative may send their contact information (name and email address) to secretary@zagny.org. Prof. Mistree will contact each individual directly before including his/her name in the roster.

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



IVY F. GANDHI ZOROASTRIAN YOUTH CAMP

June 8—10

By – Ashish Mirji (with help of Sanaya Daruvala and Poruz Khambatta)

This year, Zagny conducted perhaps the best camp we've had in years. The camp started off the same way it does every year - with us splitting off into teams. However, this year there were ping pong tables so we were all playing table tennis, waiting for everyone to arrive. After that, we started to play the name game during which we all sat in a circle and said our names along with the names of everyone before us. The second day began with an inciting and thought provoking discussion on Zoroastrianism. We talked about the differences between being Zoroastrian and being Parsee, the integration of our religion into our everyday life and the importance of the ethics and morals that our religion preaches.



After that, we went to Bear Mountain where the majority of us went all the way to the top. We had pizza for lunch after the exhausting hike and all of us were very hungry. Once we were finished, most of us went outside for a water fight while the others were inside playing cards and taboo a board game. Then the three groups had to each execute a skit based upon Zoroastrian beliefs and values. Each group performed extremely good but, the first group won by performing a skit about how the wearer of the sadra and kasti is protected from evil. The third day we started off by eating breakfast and then each team was assigned each room to clean up. By the time everyone was finished cleaning up we started to go in our religious classes and that was the end of one of the best Zagny camps of the year.



We would like to thank the organizers **Anahaita Kotval** and **Zubeen Shroff**, and all the chaperones-- **Dinaz Bengali**, **Firoza Kavanagh** (from Rochester, NY), **Percy** and **Imroz Kavarana**, **Rashna Madon**, and **Shiroy Ranji**. We would also like to thank **Toos Daruvala** and **Zubeen Shroff** for donating the two table tennis (ping pong) tables which were not only made good use of by all campers but will be enjoyed by kids and adults for years to come!



ZOROASTRIAN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The FEZANA Journal's Fall '07 issue will be focused on the ongoing Zoroastrian Oral History Project. **Nawaz Merchant**, the NY/NJ co-ordinator, is seeking 1-3 page articles on various topics: Festival customs and food in India and Iran; Our precious Seniors- the legacy of my grandparents; Parsi Gujarati sayings, quotes and humorous anecdotes; The use of Prayer in Daily life; What makes us Zoroastrian: Faith as a guiding force in our lives. (Please send articles to vicepresident@zagny.org by July 20th.)

INTERFAITH ACTION AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY

June 26, 2007

By Poruz Khambatta

On Tuesday, June 26, at Harvard University, Interfaith Action held their first ever T.I.D.E. (Teenage Interfaith Diversity Education) Wave of Change Conference. As it began, we five Zoroastrian adolescents from ZAGNY, **Ashish Mirji**, **Bezaan Madon**, **Sanaya** and **Ava Daruvala** and **Poruz Khambatta**, found ourselves submerged in a sea of unfamiliar faces and an ocean of diversity. Yet, we felt strangely accustomed to this predicament. As Zoroastrian children, we were all too familiar with that same blank stare which glazes over the face of a friend, peer or educator when they are told of our religion. Thus, even at Harvard University, a bastion of free thought, we were expecting many negligent questions, a multitude of bewildered stares and the occasional reference to fire-worshipping. Yet, by the end of the conference, we were surprised to have been received with none of the aforementioned. Though the majority of the children we met with had not been introduced to Zoroastrianism, they were eager to learn and quickly digested the information we fed them, hungering for more. It was an enlightening event which was very well planned and orchestrated from beginning to end.



The opening speech was delivered by Dan Resnick, the teenager responsible for the conception of the conference. He was followed by Dr. Diana Eck, the director of the Pluralism Project at Harvard University. The Pluralism Project, for those who are unaware, is an international effort to "document and better understand the changing contours of America's religious demography." Dr. Eck spoke about the diversity she had experienced in her own community as well as abroad in her travels to various nations especially India. After a few other announcements, we took part in an assortment of ice breakers. These were activities designed to bring us closer together and encourage us to take risks and be open with each other. The most notable ice breaker would be the collection of handshakes which you should be sure to ask one of us about the next time you get a chance. Following this, we began the first session. This was focused on listening actively and being able to have an interesting, respectful conversation with someone else. For example, we took turns retelling anecdotes a partner had told us about their lives and making sure our description was both accurate and detailed. Afterwards, we had an hour long lunch-break where, after savoring the delectable food, we explored their computer lab and signed up for an online take-away session. We then commenced with the second session. This involved dicier topics including stereotypes and controversial issues as they differ from religion to religion. This left us in a bit of a quandary, as many of us honestly had no idea whether things such as abortion were allowed in Zoroastrianism. Yet, we used what we had read of the Gathas and what we had learned in class to make assumptions and support them with evidence. Lastly, we had a take-home session where we wrote a letter to ourselves which we will receive at a later date reminding us of some of the lessons we learned that day. Sadly, we had to leave before getting a chance to witness the closing or partake in the more fun night activities such as Twister and Volleyball.

All in all, when the suggestion of attending this youth conference was first made at ZAGNY, a pang of interest swept over us. Yet, the mode and means of making this possible were vague, at best. This would never have materialized had it not been for the dedicated effort of our parents. I would especially like to thank **Mrs. Hira Daruvala** and **Mrs. Rashna Madon** for their unwavering support, guidance and chauffeuring. It was their help which allowed our fantasy to take root and blossom into the wonderful adventure that it was. Overall, the conference truly was a wave of change which raced through the ocean of diversity we were used to and changed our lives in a way we will never forget.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONDOLENCES: To Pheroza Sethna on the death of her husband Rohinton (Roy or Rohi), who passed away very peacefully in Florida on 21st June. May God rest his soul in peace & give his wife Pinkie and children--Zaab, Shan, and Zahra strength to bear their loss.

THANKS to **Satish Seghal** for donating 2 bags of *sukhad* and bringing this precious gift for our Atash Padshah.

CLOTHES DRIVE: **Mehru Cama** will once again be collecting new or gently used warm clothing for the needy in Rockland County, all sizes of children, men and women warm clothing are welcome. In addition the "dress for success" welcomes women's business clothing in very good condition. These will help women as they go back to work. Please bring the clothes to the Darbe Mehr in September and October. They will be distributed through social organizations in Rockland County.

FEZANA NEWS: FEZANA was registered under the General Not for Profit Corporation Act of Illinois on June 2, 1987. FEZANA is setting up the **FEZANA 20th Anniversary Fund**. This will be an endowment fund to support the FEZANA office and infrastructure. For this and other FEZANA news, please visit our website www.zagny.org

CARROM KI KAHANI by Viraf Commissariat

The 1st Annual Arbab Rustom Guiv Carrom Tournament was held from December 3, 2006 to June 10, 2007 at the New York Darbe Mehr, under the supervision of **Viraf Commissariat** and **Gev Nentin**. Though there had been prior notification via the ZAGNY Newsletter, the initial response for the tournament was quite disheartening. In fact till the weekend before the tournament only one person, Hoshi Merchant, had registered. Hoshi would have been announced the unopposed winner had it not been for 36 other adult registrants who registered on or before the day of the tournament's commencement. Altogether there were 37 adults and 7 children who registered for the tournament.



On the first day of the tournament it was quickly determined that the coordinators of the tournament had severely overestimated the carrom playing abilities of most of the contestants. It soon became apparent that concluding one game of 25 points (leave alone three games) in the allotted time of approximately 2.0 hours was beyond the abilities of most contestants. Hence all matches, except for the finals were reduced to one game of 25 points.



The entire tournament was held solely on the days of the Religion classes and it was very heartening to see participants of all ages eagerly playing carrom with their friends and family. Also pleasing was the camaraderie and sportsmanship of the participants.

The finalists for the Adults' Tournament were **Jehangir Madon** and **Farokh Daruwala**. Farokh and Jehangir played three very closely contested matches for the finals and in the end **Jehangir Madon** was the winner of the Adults' Tournament. The finalists for the Children's Tournament were **Neville Dusaj** and **Farah Randelia**. **Neville Dusaj** won the Children's Tournament.

Special thanks to our youth volunteers **Cyrus Nentin** and **Neville Commissariat** for helping to set up and pack up the carrom boards and stands. Also special thanks to **Shailendra Dusaj** for volunteering to be the coordinator of the finals in the absence of Gev and Viraf.

The success of this carrom tournament and subsequent requests for continuing the tournament has prompted the coordinators to commence the next tournament in September, 2007. At this time, the plan is to hold Adults' and Children's singles tournaments, together with an Adults' Doubles tournament. Please look for further instructions in the next ZAGNY newsletter.

WZCC NEWS--INTERACTIVE PANEL DISCUSSION ON "LIFE IN RETIREMENT"

On Sunday June 3, 2007 the World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce (WZCC), New York Chapter hosted "**Life in Retirement**". There were 67 attendees. After a delicious lunch catered by **Sheroo Kanga**, the meeting began with an opening address by **Arnaz Maneckshana**, President of the New York Chapter of WZCC, followed by presentations and an interactive Q&A session. The event was designed to discuss issues impacting Zoroastrians who are retired and who are planning to retire. The presentations focused on topics of **basic security, giving back, consulting and pursuing passions**. A panel of 4 speakers, **Kathleen Piaggese, Lucille Markay, Rustam Lalkaka** and **Keki Dadachanji**, each an expert in their field, discussed how retirees can lead happy, fulfilling and gainfully occupied lifestyles. The meeting was skillfully moderated by **Virasp Davar**. The committee and members at large sincerely thank him, our outstanding speakers and all the attendees. Our special thanks to **Keki Dadachandji** who brilliantly envisioned & designed this exceptional discussion.



Mark your calendar for this exciting upcoming event on Oct 27th and Oct 28th: An interesting, fun, overnight meeting in Boston, MA. **Topic: Entrepreneurship Opportunities between the US and India.** Plans are under way for launching of a Boston Chapter by Zareen Aaroz Karani who is extending invitations to key local people.

MUKTAD PRAYERS 2007

Please complete this form in **BLOCK** letters with the correct status circled for each name and return this form by **AUGUST 8, 2007**, to:

MAIL FORM TO:

Ferzin Patel

Attn: Muktab Prayers
137 CampHill Road,
Pomona, NY 10970

CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ZAGNY

Kindly include the following names in the daily prayers during the forthcoming Muktab ceremonies.

- I am enclosing herewith my contribution of \$ _____ (@ \$5 per name, maximum of 6 names) to defray costs for this event.

Yours truly,

PRINT FULL NAME

TELEPHONE NUMBER

		Name of the Deceased		Names of His/Her Father/Husband
1	E O Oi B K		E O B	
2	E O Oi B K		E O B	
3	E O Oi B K		E O B	
4	E O Oi B K		E O B	
5	E O Oi B K		E O B	
6	E O Oi B K		E O B	

The names of the deceased are always recited together with their father/husband's name along with their status, i.e. Ervad, Osta, Osti, Behdin or Khurd, as per Zoroastrian custom. No surnames are recited in the prayers.

- E = Ervad (male who is/was a Navar)
- O = Osta (male from Athornan or priestly family but not a Navar)
- Oi = Osti (female from Athornan family)
- B = Behdin (male/female from Behdin or non-priestly family)
- K = Khurd (whose Navjote has not been performed)



PATETI MUBARAK

THE PATETI FUNCTION WILL BE HELD AT THE

DARBE MEHR

106 POMONA ROAD, SUFFERN, NY 10805

TEL. #: 845-362-2104

ON

SATURDAY, 25th AUGUST, 2007

PROGRAM:

5:15 P.M. REGISTRATION
 5:30 P.M. "ATASH NIAYESH" PRAYER
 6:00 P.M. COCKTAILS (6 TO 7 PM ONLY)
 7:00 P.M. 'LANDING IN SANJAN'--A PLAY
 PERFORMED BY OUR ZAGNY KIDS
 FOLLOWED BY DINNER AND DANCING

REGISTRATION: PATETI FUNCTION

		NUMBER	AMOUNT
ADULTS	\$30.00	_____	_____
CHILDREN (6-12)	\$15.00	_____	_____
SENIORS (65 and above)	\$20.00	_____	_____
NON-MEMBERS	\$40.00	_____	_____
DONATIONS:	-	_____	_____
TOTAL:		_____	_____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TEL. NO. HOME: _____ BUSINESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

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

Minoo Bengali
 1124 Indian Hill Road
 Toms River, NJ 08753
 Tel. No. 732-288-1227

Reservations must be received by
 August 19th, 2007.

Registration will be non-refundable

No phone reservations will be taken after Aug. 19th.

A surcharge of \$15.00 per person and \$25.00 per family will apply to all registrations done at the door or received within 48 hours prior to the function.

ZAGNY
106 Pomona Road
Suffern, NY 10901

Phone
845.362.2104

E-Mail
secretary@zagny.org

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

<u>JULY 2007</u>	
7/25	LAST DATE FOR ZAGNY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION
7/29	ZAGNY ANNUAL PICNIC
<u>AUGUST 2007</u>	
8/19	MUKTAD PRAYERS AT THE DARBE MEHR (RSVP DATE 8/8/07)
8/25	PATETI FUNCTION (RSVP DATE 8/19/07)
<u>SEPTEMBER 2007</u>	
9/09	ZAGNY RELIGIOUS CLASSES (1 pm START)

DONATIONS OF YOUR IRA ROLLOVER TO ZAGNY FUNDS

Taxpayers age 70½ and older are required to make annual distributions from their retirement accounts. The distributions are included in the taxpayers' adjusted gross income (AGI), and taxpayers pay taxes on them. The Charitable IRA Rollover permits taxpayers to make donations directly to charitable organizations from their IRAs without counting them as part of their AGI and, consequently, without paying taxes on them. As ZAGNY is a registered qualified charitable organization, Zoroastrians donating directly to ZAGNY funds will benefit, even if those who do not itemize deductions on their annual income tax returns and therefore do not receive a tax benefit for their charitable contributions.

The only limitation is that you can do this, **ONLY, in 2007**, and **ONLY up to \$100,000** per taxpayer. ZAGNY Board would like to make this one time appeal to its members over 70 ½. The funds can be directed to either one of our funds and we assure you any amount donated will be put to good use. We would be happy to explain further details to you and help you with the paper work involved. Please contact your Treasurer, Minoo Bengali, at 732-288-1227 or treasurer@zagny.org. Thank you for your consideration.

ZAGNY

106 Pomona Rd.

Suffern, NY 10901

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.zagny.org
