



ZAGNY

ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION
OF GREATER NEW YORK

Issue 41– October 2008 Newsletter

UPCOMING EXCITING EVENTS

HAPPY 35TH BIRTHDAY ZAGNY!!

1973--2008

The year, 2008 marks the 35th Anniversary of the incorporation of the Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York (ZAGNY) as a non-profit organization in the state of New York.

We at ZAGNY are excited and would like to celebrate this milestone with our community members on **Sat. Jan 24th, 2009**. We hope many of you will join us to honor our history, and commemorate this occasion. Do save the date and make plans to attend.

We would like families to sponsor this event. If interested, please contact our President, Gev Nentin at president@zagny.org

ZAGNY HALLOWEEN PARADE

Our annual Trick or Treating **costume parade** will be held at the **Sunday, November 2nd** religion class.



Sure, you can stay at home and try to cast spells, but it's far more fun to party with us! So dust the cobwebs off those costumes and come dressed to have a blast!

ADULT RELIGION CLASSES

We are delighted to announce that our most beloved Professor, **Dr. Kaikhosrov Irani**, will be giving a series of talks on how Zoroastrian beliefs and ways-of-life compare with those of other major spiritual traditions. All of us have non-zoroastrian friends, and some have non-Zoroastrian relatives. It is important that we understand each other's core beliefs. Understanding leads to tolerance, and ultimately acceptance. If we are to raise our children as true Zoroastrians, we must be able to talk to them about what Zoroastrianism is, and how it relates to other religions.

These talks will be held on **first Sunday of each month, from 1:30 to 2:30pm** at the Darbe Mehr. Please pencil in first Sundays of each month for this very worthwhile series.

NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH

Yes, its not even Halloween yet, but we are already gearing up and planning for New Year's eve and invite you once again to celebrate Auld Lang Syne with your ZAGNY family and friends.



Join us usher in another New Year as we prance n' dance and countdown to 2009 with fun, food, games n' music. More details will follow, but do mark your calendars.

SOONI TARAPOREVALA'S DIRECTORIAL DEBUT FILM

The world premiere of "**LITTLE ZIZOU**" is being presented by the IAAC (Indo-American Arts Council) on the closing night of the MIAAC FILM FESTIVAL (Mahindra Indo-American Arts Council Film Festival), on **Sunday November 9, 2008 at 6 PM** at the Museum of Arts and Design, 2 Columbus Circle, New York, NY 10019. For tickets visit <https://www.sulekha.com/ticketsV3/buytickets.aspx?cid=549025>

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SUMMER 2008 EVENTS

Alas, another summer's come to an end, but for us here at ZAGNY, it was a lot of fun as you can see from the highlights of our sizzling activities--annual picnic, Muktaḁ prayers, and Navroz function.

ZAGNY PICNIC

Once again our ZAGNY annual picnic on July 29th was a great success. We had an enthusiastic crowd of fun loving young, old, restless, sporting and hungry members who showed up with all sorts of delicious food enough to share with everybody. We kicked off the picnic, as usual with food....delicious Bhel, Sandwiches and other goodies. The kids and elders alike joined in the game of throw ball and Frisbee. Thanks to the **Ranji family** for bringing the cricket gear, so everyone played cricket and had a good time.

Here's what our youth member, **Jasmine Dukandar** had to say--Being back from college this summer, I knew one of the summer events I would have to look forward to was the Annual ZAGNY picnic. There was in fact a smaller turnout than usual, but for those of you who couldn't make it we definitely enjoyed the nicest weather thus far this year. The sun was shining all day and we took full advantage of it. Grandparents, parents, and kids all enjoyed some cricket on the field. We also had boating, playing in the playground, splashing around in the lake, and even some intense soccer with our picnicking neighbors. I would have to say though, that my favorite part of the day was listening to the Spanish music that was being played right next to our area. Two men had brought guitars and were playing beautifully as a woman sang along. The live music was a nice twist to our usual picnic and topped of a relaxing and fun day in the park.

MUKTAD PRAYERS

Thanks to our gracious host families--- **Farah and Rustom Bhoḁti, Pervin and Fali Shroff, Yasmin and Jamshed Ghadiali, and Teshtar and Noshir Irani**—we were able to offer prayer services during the *gatha* days at various places in our tristate area. Muktaḁ prayers were also held at our Darbe Mehr on Sunday, August 17th. We'd like to thank our revered priests, **Pervez Patel, Xerxes Antia, Darius Antia, Rohinton Dadina, Jehangir Madon, Adi Sidwa**, and our young mobeds **Karl Khambatta** and **Poruz Khambatta** for reciting prayers on muktaḁ days.

The prayers at the Darbe Mehr were followed by a simple home cooked lunch of *chicken dhansak, kachumber, vegetable* and Malido for dessert. We'd like to thank all our volunteers --**Mehru Cama, Viraf & Mahrukh Commissariat, Kashmira Dutia, Yasmin Ghadiali, Toni Ghadially, Rashna Harda, Dinyar Hodiwala, Teshtar Irani, Sheroo Kanga, Kashmira Karai, Navaz Katki, Jasmin Kotwal, Nina Mistry, Aban Nentin** and **Armaity Patel**. Thanks also to **Dinyar Kalwachwala** for making the Darbe Mehr look sparkling clean before the muktaḁ prayers.

NAVROZE MUBARAK

Our Pateti function held at our Darbe Mehr on 23rd Aug. 2008, once again drew in a big crowd. The evening began with the recital of the Atash-Niyaesh prayers by **Ervad Rohinton Madon**. After a brief welcome announcement by President **Gev Nentin**, the community was invited to view a presentation submitted by ZAGNY as a bid to host the next North American Zoroastrian Congress. All present enjoyed the excellent presentation put together by **Ferzin Patel** with help from other community members.

After the cocktail hour the entertainment segment for that evening featured **K-von**, a well known comedian. Since Kvon has a Persian father, the adults were able to instantly connect to his humorous observations. The teens and tweens could also relate to his jokes about the clashes of culture (Kvon's mother is an American). I was amazed to see even the little girls going ga-ga over him---despite not getting the jokes, they seemed to thoroughly enjoy the attention he gave them by calling them up on stage. So yes, all present enjoyed K-von's clean comedy and had aching jaws from laughing so much---at least those of us who were seated in the main hall and who could hear him. The poor acoustics in the back rooms did leave some folks disgruntled—our sincere apologies go out to them. The entertainment was followed with delicious dinner—catered this time by Palace of Asia. As folks were enjoying their dinner, they got to hear the award winning essays from the Gool Kothawala essay contest. **Tanaz Karai** won 1st place in the senior category and **Farah Randelia** won in the Junior category. Other winners were **Bezan Madon, Friya Randelia** and **Natasha Dusaj**. Our sincere thanks to **Nawaz Merchant** for giving our kids the opportunity to participate. Dinner was followed by dancing--our novice DJs, **Neville Dusaj** and **Tina Dukandar** kept the party going until midnight. The raffle that evening raised a good sum of money -- a big THANK YOU to **Sheroo and Vispi Kanga** for donating 2 baskets with goodies from Victoria's Secret and Bath and Body Works; and thanks to all our kids who helped sell these raffle tickets.

SUPPORTING OUR NASSESALARS

Submitted by Fali Shroff

I'd like to thank our Dear ZAGNY, IZA Members and Fellow Zoroastrians around the Grand Old USA for your donations and generosity for a very worthy cause in supporting our Nassesalars, Ladies who bathe the corpses and the support staff at Dungerwadi in Mumbai for the last Four Years.

Your most generous contributions in the past has consistently met or exceed my goals and target of donation collection for OUR Nassesalars and Support staff at Dungerwadi. Last year my goal was to collect \$ 5000.00 and WE slightly exceeded the amount. This year again my goal of \$ 5000.00 has exceeded and will far exceed after ZAGNY's contribution.

Our Nassesalars are doing an outstanding job par excellence in performing their duties to our dearly departed family members and friends and humbly doing what is required of them. They are doing a yeoman job for our humdins which no other member of our community cares to perform.

Of all living human beings "Nassesalars" (pall-bearers) alone enter and leave the "Tower Of Silence." The way these men are treated is simply wretched. No modern day Pall-Bearer's position is worse in our modern society. They are made to live quite apart from the rest of our community, in whose eyes they are the most abject of beings. Being forbidden to freely mix within our community, cannot marry within the community except within their own ranks. No Parsi provision store owner will let them buy food in their stores. They are born, marry and die, perfect strangers to ALL except their own class, passing through the streets and Dungerwadi only to fetch the dead and carry them inside our "Tower Of Silence". Even to be near one of them is degradation.

Trust me, in this day and age the treatment given to OUR Nassesalars is disgusting, repulsive and leaves a lot to be desired amongst some of our elite, affluent, high society, rich, highly educated Parsis, Iranis and Zoroastrians who dare I say are nothing but bigots.

Every year I personally visit Dunderwadi, shake hands with ALL and hand over their share of monies collected in an envelope, make them count their share and obtain their signature. A total of 52 folks at Dungerwadi were given an envelope with varying amounts. 17 Nassesalars, 6 Paniwallas (folks who bathe the corpse), 1 Sagdi Mobed (very old priest performing prayers at the top near the dokhma), 2 Mehtajis (assistant priests), 3 Hearse Drivers received the largest share of Rupees 5,000 last year. Rest of the folks received varying amounts.

If any member of the congregation wishes to receive a complete sheet with individual signatures, please email me your request at fali_shroff@yahoo.com (that's fali underscore shroff) and I will email them with a scanned copy of the signature sheet.

Again thank you all very much for making this happen. ALL the folks at Dungerwadi have also conveyed their Love and Thanks to you all. You should see the glimmer of smile and happiness on their faces when they see me at Dungerwadi.

May AHURA MAZDA shower his CHOICEST BLESSINGS, shine HIS BEACON OF LIGHT and GUIDE you ALL with GOOD HEALTH, HAPPINESS and PROSPERITY ALWAYS.



Amin, Amin, Amin.

THE CARE OF CREATION: A ZOROASTRIAN'S RESPONSIBILITY

A FEW SIMPLE WAYS WE CAN BE EARTH-FRIENDLY, EASE POLLUTION AND BE GOOD ZOROASTRIANS

Submitted by Pearl Satarawala

There is no doubt that as Zoroastrians we are asked to be caretakers in Ahura Mazda's creation. I went to the PAZOR website for information about the significance and relevance of a Zoroastrian person's relationship and responsibility to the planet.

Before I delve into some history and information, I would like to explain the intent of my writing this article. First, please understand that I do not aim to criticize but only to educate and inform. As seen by the title of this article, my proposition to you, my fellow Parsi Zoroastrians is that we can practice earth-friendly and ecologically sound practices that are EASY. Furthermore, by doing this we are actually practicing a vital and significant aspect of our great religion: Zoroastrianism. Three thousand years ago our prophet Zarathustra explained in the sacred Gathas the rights of plants, animals, mineral and water. He spoke of the reverence and nurturing of all Spenta (Bounteous) creation. In the 21st Century this ancient message takes on great meaning and I encourage you to read on and then to further explore the few ways that I suggest that YOU CAN make a difference to the preservation of this fragile and hurting planet Earth – Ahura Mazda's creation and our home.

The PARZOR foundation has created a VCD which is available from their website: UNESCOPARZOR.COM. This is called "Asha: The Law of Harmony." The VCD describes the Yasna and the Jashan ceremony and their environmental significance. On the website, an article further explains:

"As Ahura Mazda's own creation, man has a special duty to the six lesser creations. The ethical code, which the doctrine embodies, gives man a unique sense of responsibility towards the earth and all created being. The duties enjoined on Zoroastrians to protect the environment, nurture trees and plants, care for animals, enrich the soil and keep earth, water and fire unpolluted can all be seen stemming from respect for the Amesha Spenta, protectors of all creations. Therefore, a comprehensive system of ethics and philosophy combines with the need for physical well being and responsibility to the environment."

Pollution is a concern; there is no doubt about it. However, there is hope and you can be a part of this. Here are a few simple suggestions to lessen waste that is piling up in the landfills; some tips to minimize garbage and keep all of Ahura Mazda's creation pure.

- Carry a reusable, cloth bag (bags) when shopping. Avoid using plastic bags.
- Recycle glass, plastic, paper, aluminum whenever possible.
- Reuse containers instead of using plastic wrap or foil. (Pack your leftovers in an old yogurt container rather than a zip-lock bag!)
- Use glass or stainless steel dishes to cook rather than aluminum trays. (Can you imagine how these pile up in the dumps? UGH!)
- Pack your child's lunch in reusable lunch bags and boxes rather than plastic sandwich bags and brown bags.
- Buy a healthy, reusable water bottle that you can refill, rather than buying dozens of plastic water bottles.
- BOYCOTT Styrofoam containers (plates, cups, containers). They are **highly toxic** when disposed into the landfills and not good for anyone's health.
- USE SAFE ways to dispose batteries: towns usually have special sites for these. The batteries are very toxic to the land when dumped with regular garbage.
- Use cloth napkins and cloth table-cloths rather than paper and plastic. They are prettier and easily washed and reused.
- Use real flatware rather than plastic forks, knives, etc. Even for picnics – Use plates, cups, etc. that can be washed and reused. Plastic takes hundreds of years to decompose.
- COMPOST. If you have a garden you can easily compost vegetable scraps, fruit peelings, bread scraps, egg shells, etc. Anything but meats. Check composting websites online. It's easy to do and you will gain beautiful organic soil from the decomposition of these foods.
- Avoid LITTERING.

I URGE ZAGNY to consider ways to minimize the garbage we create every time we eat together at the Darbe Mehr. I have some specific suggestions I would be happy to share with the Board.

As Zoroastrians we respect and hold purity as sacred. How many of you remember fondly the way our parents and grandparents would offer up a prayer of gratitude to light, water, and food? Our purity laws even include disposing of hair clippings in careful ways. So I please encourage you to make an attempt...it just takes a few simple steps and resolutions to begin the process of taking responsibility to keep our earth clean, green and yes, follow the laws as set forth by our teacher and prophet Zarathustra.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birth

•Congratulations To The Proud Parents Zarine and Sam Shroff on the Birth of their Baby Girl **Zarah Shroff** on September 2, 2008. Big Brother Cyrus is really delighted, welcomes baby sister and sings Rock-A-By-Baby. Proud Grand Parents G-Ma (Pam), Pappi (Fali) and Pinks, Adil Makhania and Uncle Hormazd send their Love and Ahura Mazda's Blessings to Baby Zarah, Cyrus, Zarine and Sam.

•To Maharukh & Firoz Tarapore on the birth of their grand-daughter, **Mirai** who arrived on Sept 1st, Labor day-- gave a whole new meaning to labor day!

Condolences

•Mrs. Lily Purvez Dholoo, mother of Daisy Randelia, mother in law of Rohinton Randelia and grandmother of Farah and Friya Randelia passed away peacefully on April 13, 2008 at her residence in Mumbai, India. The Randelia Family would like to thank all their friends and family members for their kind words of sympathy and condolences expressed on their sad loss.

•To Viraf and Maharukh Commissariat, on the death of Viraf's mother, Mehru Pesi Commissariat, grandmother of Persis and Neville, on July 15th in Mumbai, India.

•Roshni Bharda, passed away on Sept. 4, 2008. Our condolences to her beloved husband, Darayes, daughter, Anahita, and her husband, Paul; daughter, Jerfeshan and her husband, Donald; daughter, Nilufer; and four grandchildren, Nicholas, Sarah, Courtney and Cory.

•To Arshis, Persis and Johann on the sad passing of Arshis's dear Mother, Mrs. Freny Pavri, in Mumbai on October 7th.

May their souls rest in eternal peace.

Change of Address

•**Farzad M. Dutia** has moved. His new address is: 500 West Belmont Ave, Apt 4F, Chicago, Ill 60657. Tel. #: 845-558-0690

•**Sheroo** and **Vispi Kanga** have moved. Their new address is 159 Aristotle Way, Cranbury, New Jersey 08512 Telephone number: 609 448 0192 – emails: kangavs@yahoo.com and vispi.kanga@gmail.com

Soliciting Advertisers for ZAGNY Directory 2009

We are in the process of publishing our new 2009 Telephone Directory (to be distributed at the Navroz function) and are looking for advertisers to help us defray the cost of publication. By advertising in our directory you will be able to reach over 500 Zoroastrian families in the tri-state area.

If interested, please send your Business or Best Wishes ad in PDF format to vicepresident@zagny.org by Dec 15, 2008. The rates for the ads are as follows--Back Cover: \$400; Inside back cover: \$350; Full page: \$250; Half page: \$150; Quarter page: \$80.

Upcoming World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce (WZCC) Meeting

WZCC New York Chapter invites you to their Lunch-n-Learn meeting on **Sun. Nov 16, 2008** from 12:30—2:30 PM. Topic: Leveraging Social Networks for Results: In Life, Career and Community. Key Speaker: **Yazad Dalal**, VP, Vault.com. RSVP: by Nov 7th to **Usheen Davar** at usheen@aol.com. Questions: contact **Arnaz Maneckshana** at 201-592-2566, wzccny_news@yahoo.com.

Appeal for Help

A Parsi Zoroastrian lady and her two daughters are living in abject penury and are reduced to the ignominy of finding refuge in a Mumbai slum. We would like to appeal to all generous and large hearted individuals, to help them in their hour of need and provide financial assistance in rehabilitating this family whilst maintaining their privacy and dignity. Please send your checks to ZAGNY Treasurer, 96 Bernard Ave, Edison, NJ 08837.

DIRECTORY 2009

ENTRY FORM FOR 2009 ZAGNY DIRECTORY COVER COMPETITION

ZAGNY's Directory will be published in March 2009, and the Board has decided to hold a competition for the Design of the Directory's Cover.

This competition is open to our youth, ages 10-13 years old and 14-18 years old, residing in the NY Tri-State area. One prize will be awarded for each age group. The Winning Entry will be selected from all the entries.

Guidelines for the Cover Design:

1. The Cover Design should incorporate some kind of Zarthushti idea/emblem, and also include "Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York - 2009 Directory".
2. The size of the Cover Design should not exceed **8.5"X11"** and must be printed and submitted on paper or card stock.
3. The participant's name, address and birth date should be legibly written on the *back* of the Cover Design.
4. The Cover Design must be postmarked no later than **December 30, 2008**, and mailed to **ZAGNY, c/o Behroz Dutia, 5 Amethyst Court, West Nyack, NY 10994**.
5. The Winner of the competition will be required to submit the Cover Design on a CD as a High Resolution Image or Scan.
6. Cover Design will be judged based on idea, color scheme, originality and overall design.
7. More Specifications and details, if necessary, will be sent once entry forms are received.

To enter the competition, please fill out this Entry form and mail to **ZAGNY, c/o Behroz Dutia, 5 Amethyst Court, West Nyack, NY 10994** and must be postmarked no later than **November 25, 2008**. All Entry Forms have to be signed by a parent or legal guardian.

Please print clearly.

Name: _____

Birth date: _____

Address: _____

Phone # _____

Email Address: _____

All Cover Designs will be the sole property of ZAGNY once submitted, and ZAGNY will have full rights over it; to make changes to the design, and/or, print/copy the design on any of it's official documents, brochures, or catalogues.

ZAGNY will not be under any obligation, express or implied, to compensate the participants of the competition for the design or any expenses incurred.

We agree to abide with all the terms and conditions listed above and understand that the decision made by ZAGNY Board will be final.

Signature of the participant

Signature of the parent/legal guardian

To Sponsor this competition, please contact: Behroz Dutia at 845-623-7479 or Behrozdutia@hotmail.com

35th Anniversary Gala

The Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York
Cordially invites you to celebrate
ZAGNY's 35th Birthday
on
Sat., Jan. 24th, 2009
At the Darbe Mehr - Suffern, NY



PROGRAM:

6:30 ATASH NIAYESH PRAYER
7:00 APPETIZERS
7:30 GLIMPSES FROM THE PAST AND AWARDS
8:00 DINNER
8:30 MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT

Family Name: _____

___ ADULT MEMBERS \$15.00 _____
___ CHILDREN (under 12) Free _____

TOTAL: _____

PLEASE SEND YOUR RESERVATION BY Friday, Jan 9, 2009

No phone reservations will be taken after that date
Surcharge of \$5.00 per person and \$15.00 per family will apply to all
registrations done at the door

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO ZAGNY

Mail to:

Treasurer, KERMAN DUKANDAR
96 BERNARD AVENUE, EDISON, NJ 08837

ZAGNY
106 Pomona Road
Suffern, NY 10901

Phone
845.362.2104

E-Mail
secretary@zagny.org

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

11/2 ZAGNY RELIGION CLASSES (1 PM); ADULT CLASSES (1:30 PM)
11/2 HALLOWEEN PARADE (3:30 PM)
11/16 WZCC MEETING (DETAILS INSIDE)

DECEMBER

12/7 ZAGNY RELIGION CLASSES (1 PM); ADULT CLASSES (1:30 PM)
12/31 NEW YEAR'S EVE FUNCTION (DETAILS TO FOLLOW)

JANUARY

1/4 ZAGNY RELIGION CLASSES (1 pm START)
1/4 ADULT RELIGION CLASSES (1:30 PM)
1/24 ZAGNY'S 35TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



To everyone's delight, daylight saving time ends later this year. Instead of the 4th Sun in Oct, time reverts to standard time at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 2nd. The mnemonic "spring forward, fall back" helps us remember how to reset clocks!

ZAGNY
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Sign up for email alerts

at:

www.ZAGNY.org