



# ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW YORK

**President:** Gev Nentin - **Vice President:** Khurshed Navder - **Secretary:** Behroz Dutia - **Jt. Secretary:** Keki Dadachanji  
**Treasurer:** Kerman Dukandar- **Members at large:** Vispi Kanga, Dinyar Kalwachwala,  
Pervin Tata Lobo, Nina Mistry, Ferzin Patel, Shiroy Ranji.

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2010

Issue 48

## NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS



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### Udvada Vada Dasturji Performs Jashan at ZAGNY Darbe Mehr in New York

Saturday May 15th, 2010 – Source Parsi Khabar – Arzan Sam Wadia

The Vada Dasturji of Iranshah Atash Behram, Udvada, **Khurshed Kaikobad Dastur** was invited by ZAGNY at the Darbe Mehr in Pomona, NY to perform a jashan ceremony and talk to the ZAGNY congregation on Saturday May 15th, 2010. He was accompanied by Ervads Pervez Patel, Noshir Karanjia and Karl Khambatta from ZAGNY. After the beautiful prayer recitation, Dasturji gave a brief history of the **Iranshah** from the time the Parsis landed on the shores of Sanjan, Gujarat in India 13 centuries ago.

The Dasturji also briefed the gathering about the new **Zoroastrian Information Center** set up at Udvada. This center has a permanent exhibit that imparts information about the religion, culture and way of life of the Parsis in India. He urged one and all to visit the Center, the next time they are in Udvada at the Iranshah. He also spoke about his visit to address a Jewish congregation the day before at their synagogue. Here he was given an opportunity to address the large crowd and brief them about the religion and the ceremonies; and discuss the many similarities our religions share. Dasturji also addressed the gathering of over 100 people in a question answer session moderated by Homi Gandhi.

Lastly he urged the gathering; and in fact the various associations in North America, including FEZANA, to write letters of support for the creation of Udvada as a **Heritage Village**. This is something that he is championing and taking up with the Government of Gujarat and further with the Government of India. This heritage status (**not** to be confused with the UNESCO World Heritage Site) would stop the haphazard development of property in Udvada village. With multi storey structures planned all around the Iranshah and a complete absence of sewage and sanitation system; soil and water pollution are the biggest hazards to the surrounding areas of Iranshah. He requested everyone to send letters of support via their local Zoroastrian organisations to him at [DasturjiKhurshed@gmail.com](mailto:DasturjiKhurshed@gmail.com).

At the conclusion of the event he was presented with a shawl and gift by Pervez Patel on behalf of ZAGNY. The gathering then broke for lunch which was hosted by Erach Munshi and everyone got an opportunity to meet with the Dasturji on a personal one-to-one basis.



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### Some notes on Dasturji's talk – Behroz Dutia:

Esteemed Dasturji pointed out that the first batch of Parsis came to India to seek refuge from the Arab invasion of Persia, sometime around the 7<sup>th</sup> century and landed on the shores of Sanjan, Gujarat in India. The influx of parsis, many of them coming via land from north of India to Gujarat grew, and the need for a place of worship was felt. Dasturji enlightened us on the fact that the Iranshah is not the fire from Iran as is the popular belief; but that it was originated in India by setting it up to ignite from a bolt of lightning (one of the ways of consecrating a fire for an Atashbehram). During the Arab invasion of India, the parsis gave it refuge in the caves of Barot in Gujarat and from there it travelled to Navsari, Surat and finally to Udvada, it's final resting place where it has stood for last 1300 years!

One interesting question asked via e-mail was “Does visiting a church, hindu temple or mosque make me a bad zarathushti?” Dasturji poignantly responded; “Visiting other places of worship does not mean you have given up your faith. Everyone needs to respect all religions, but one should try to follow the religion that one is born in.” So simple, yet so profound! Dasturji also pointed out that not many parsi youth are interested nowadays to become a mobed and in order to perpetuate our religion, this is vital. So in India they have set up a fund that provides incentives to a person interested in becoming a mobed. But he pointed that the fund needs to be built up to \$2 million dollars, so that it can generate enough interest income necessary to sustain the mobed families. It was truly an inspiring talk from a learned man and some of us were amazed at the progressive thoughts he projected.

Many thanks to Dasturji Khurshed Kaikobad Dastur for visiting us and blessing us; also thanks to Erach Munshi for initiating this meeting and sponsoring the luncheon. ZAGNY collected \$1,974 towards it's Critical Assistance, Udvada Fund that day. Thanks also to our moderator, Homi Gandhi and our priests Pervez Patel, Noshir Karanjia and Karl Khambatta for performing the jashan. Thanks to Dilshad Todiwala, Nina Mistry, Ferzin Patel, and Khurshed & Shailendra Dusaj for helping me out with this event.

## OTHER NEWS

**Meeting with Dasturji Meherjirana of Navsari**

- Submitted by Fali D. Shroff

As we all know, the Bhagarsath Anjuman elected **Ervad Kaikhusroo Navroze Dastoor** (more popularly and affectionately known as K. N. Dastoor, or KND) as the 17th Dastur Meherjirana in place of Dasturji Meherji Dastur Kaikobad, who expired on 23rd January, 2010.

Shortly after his inauguration as OUR New Meherjirana, I had the wonderful opportunity to meet Meherjirana Kaikhusroo Navroze Dastoor in February 2010 at the **Annual Religious Exhibition** event, organized by my friend Mrs. Silloo Mehta of Irvine, California and of which I am one of the organizing members. This religious exhibition is through the auspices of "The Mazdayasnie Connection" which was started again by Mrs. Silloo Mehta many years ago and has always been a very well attended yearly event. Mrs. Silloo Mehta also conducts Tours to Iran regularly twice a year. This tour has been a "Tour of A Lifetime For Me".

Dasturji opened the event and was also its keynote speaker. At the opening ceremony of this Religious Exhibition, I had the distinct honor of felicitating OUR New Meherjirana Ervad Kaikhusroo Navroze Dastoor and I presented him with a Red Shawl on behalf of the ZAGNY Congregation. Our Meherjirana has asked me to thank the entire ZAGNY Congregation for this wonderful gesture.



ZAGNY in my opinion, should invite OUR Meherjirana Kaikhusroo Navroze Dastoor to our North American Zoroastrian Congress in 2012 as a Religious Keynote Speaker. He is a wonderful speaker/orator with a fantastic sense of humor.

May Ahura Mazda Bless Us and Shine His Beacon Of Light On ALL Of Us.

**ZAGNY BOARD NEWS**

- ZAGNY Board has voted to contribute \$1,000 per year for the next three years for the **Zoroastrian Studies** at Stanford University.

**ZAGNY's WEBSITE**

ZAGNY Board is pleased to announce that **Arzan Sam Wadia and Malcolm Shroff** have kindly volunteered to work on our website. Arzan will now manage and host ZAGNY's website and Malcolm will set up the website for the 2012 N.A. Congress that is to be hosted by ZAGNY. So look out for a brand new look for ZAGNY!

**2012 N.A. ZARATHUSHTI CONGRESS – NY**

Do you have any talent dancing, singing, or playing a musical instrument? ZAGNY is looking for our tri-state area kids, youngsters and adults interested in taking part in our entertainment program at the 2012 Congress in NY. We are looking for choreographers, dancers and musicians. If interested, please contact **Khursheed Navder or Jasley Dukandar**. Auditions will be taken.

To volunteer on any of the Congress Committees, please contact committee chairpersons. Logistics – Mehru Cama, Social – Khursheed Navder, Program – Keki Dadachanji, Finance – Kerman Dukandar, Publicity – Homi Gandhi.

▶ **ZAGNY 2010 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL** ◀

Please renew your membership for 2010 if you have not already done so, by **filling and mailing us the enclosed form** along with your dues. To update your Directory-Membership information, please contact Khursheed Navder: [Vicepresident@zagny.org](mailto:Vicepresident@zagny.org).

**DMZT UPDATE**

Effective June 6th, 2010, please contact **Fali D. Shroff** for the booking of the DMZT Hall and or Premises for official as well as any congregation member's functions.

CALL Fali at 201-887-8125 or EMAIL at [fali\\_shroff@yahoo.com](mailto:fali_shroff@yahoo.com).

**ZAPANJ NEWS**

ZACUCE is proud to announce that we closed on a 1.66-acre piece of land at 808 South Church Street, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054. We welcome you to drive by and see the location. The final price was \$225,000. Your support and donations have allowed us to get to this point, so thank you. We still have a lot of work ahead of us, but are certainly excited at this milestone event. We'd like to specifically thank Diniar Sukhia, who played a key role in finding and securing this property. We will continue to keep you updated of our next steps and, as always, welcome any questions you have. Thank you. - ZACUCE Board ([zacuce.news@gmail.com](mailto:zacuce.news@gmail.com).)

**CONGRATULATIONS and ZAGNY'S BEST WISHES TO ZAPANJ!**

## NEWS &amp; UPCOMING EVENTS

**Our Kayhan Brings Home the Emmy!**

April 19, 2010



Here is what Kayhan Irani had to say:

*"I am SO happy to write this email. Tonight I won a NY Emmy for Best Writing for a TV Program!!!! I am SO thrilled, so proud, and so happy to see a TV show by, for, and about NY's immigrants get the attention it deserves. If you want to see episodes, and find out how to get involved with "We Are New York", visit [www.nyc.gov/LearnEnglish](http://www.nyc.gov/LearnEnglish). Thank you for all your warm wishes, support, love, and friendship. Upward and Onward!"* The TV show, overall, received 4 NY Emmy nominations: Best Writing, Best Photography, Best Crime Series, and Best Music Composition!!!

ZAGNY community is very proud of you Kayhan!  
Wishing you further success!

**ZAGNY PICNIC**

Sun. July 25, 2010

Rain or Shine! Save the date for our Annual ZAGNY Summer Picnic on Sun., July 25, 2010 at the **Cheesequake State Park**,  
**300 Gordon Road, Matawan, N.J. 07747.**

Bring your own food (for 8-10 people if you would like others to sample your food), drinks and paper supplies. Grills are available for cook-outs. ZAGNY will provide watermelon, iced tea, hot tea and charcoal for the cook out. Parking is available at a nominal fee. For directions and more information visit [www.stateparks.com/cheesequake.html](http://www.stateparks.com/cheesequake.html).

**Cell numbers for day of picnic to locate our group: Kerman-732-742-2275, Vispi-201-248-7208.** For further details, please contact Vispi Kanga at 609-448-0192 ([kangavs@yahoo.com](mailto:kangavs@yahoo.com)) or Kerman Dukandar at 732-494-7976 ([Treasurer@zagny.org](mailto:Treasurer@zagny.org)).

**PATETTI MUBARAK!**

Sat. August 21, 2010

Patetti, our parsi New Year will be celebrated at the Pomona Darbe-Mehr on Sat., August 21, 2010.

**Prayers: 6:30 pm;  
Cocktails: 7:00 pm;  
Live Band - The Radio Jets: 8:00 pm;  
Dinner: 9:00 pm**

Please note that At the Gate charge is a courtesy only for last minute guests, and not to be considered as a norm. We request our community members to register, either by mail or on line, **by the deadline of Aug. 10<sup>th</sup>**. This will assist us to plan for the event and make it enjoyable one for all. We truly appreciate your co-operation in this matter.

**On line registration for this event will be available shortly on our website.**

**MUKTAD PRAYERS**Sat. Aug. 14<sup>th</sup> – Wed. Aug. 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Our Zoroastrian community is invited to participate in the Mukta prayers on all five Gatha days. 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 of our members. Our sincere thanks to the host families and to the mobeds who have kindly agreed to perform the prayers.

Date Gatha	Sat. 8/14 Ahunavad	Sun. 8/15 Ushtavad	Mon. 8/16 Spentomad	Tues. 8/17 Vohukxarthra	Wed. 8/18 Vahistoist
Host Family	Yasmin & Jamshed Ghadially	Testar & Noshir Irani	Fali & Pam Shroff	Open	Percis & Rakesh Bansal
Time	6:30 PM	11:00 AM	6:30 PM		6:30 PM
Place	Long Island, NY	Darbe Mehr	Waldwick, NJ		Princeton, NJ

If interested in attending the prayers, please contact the host families and submit the names of your dear departed ones on the enclosed form along with your check and mail it to reach us by August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010. All names will be recited as submitted when prayers are performed on the above days. Lunch, hosted by Noshir & Testar Irani, will be served after the prayers on Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at the Darbe-Mehr. Please contact Nina Mistry at 914-722-0229 / [ninamistry@hotmail.com](mailto:ninamistry@hotmail.com) or Vispi Kanga at 609-448-0192 / [kangavs@yahoo.com](mailto:kangavs@yahoo.com).



PAST EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**NAVROZE CELEBRATIONS & AGM**  
March 20, 2010

About 200 people ushered in Navroze, the first day of the Zoroastrian year and of Spring 2010, by invoking the blessings of Ahura Mazda with a jashan at the Pomona Darbe Mehr. It was followed by ZAGNY's Annual General meeting with President Gev Nentin, in absence of our Treasurer, Kerman Dukandar, presenting the Financials for the year and Secretary Behroz Dutia reporting on the past year's events. After the cocktail hour, kids and adults tried their luck at Bingo, enjoyed a sumptuous dinner and ended up dancing to the tunes of our young and enthusiastic DJ, **Neville Dusaj**. We thank all our volunteers and a special thank you to Neville for volunteering and to **Godrej Mehta** for donating his winnings of Bingo to ZAGNY's Critical Assistance Fund.

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**RELIGIOUS CLASS & BARBEQUE**  
Sun. June 6, 2010

Another school year came to an end and ZAGNY's last religious class was held on Sunday, June 6, 2010 followed by a Barbecue lunch, as we said our good-byes to the class kids, teachers and friends for the summer! Thanks to all our wonderful chefs **Zarir Karai, Kerman Dukandar, Hoshi Merchant, and Minoo Bengali** who volunteered at the grill to cook up a great meal!

Please note classes resume  
Sunday, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

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**Congratulations to all our youngsters who are graduating this year from school and college!**

**ZAGNY wishes them continued success in their future endeavors!**



**13<sup>th</sup> REVLON RUN/WALK EVENT** — May 1, 2010  
(submitted by S. Kanga)

United in the fight against cancer, our ZAGNY team No. 1109 participated for the 9th consecutive year in this 5 Km annual Revlon Run/Walk for Women's cancers. Once again, under the leadership of the ZAGNY team captain **Sheroo Kanga**, this team of 17 walkers has collected \$7,039 till date for this worthy cause. [www.revlonrunwalk.com](http://www.revlonrunwalk.com)

Thanks to the generous donations of all the donors and their continuous support we are one step closer to finding a cure for this deadly disease. We look forward to seeing many of you next year on **April 30<sup>th</sup> 2011**, in Times Square, for the 14th Annual Revlon Run/Walk for Women!

Sheroo wishes to personally thank all the walkers and donors who donated money to her in support of their loved ones.

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**A message:**

Dear Zagny Friends,

I thank everyone who bought daffodils and/or made donations towards my Annual American Cancer Society Daffodils Campaign. Daffodils are the flowers of Spring and bring hope and cheer to all patients. I have been collecting for this worthy cause since my school days. I appreciate your valued support and encouragement for this noble cause and thank you all once again. May Ahura Mazda's Choicest Blessings be upon you and your dear ones always.

Avan Pervez Patel



❖ **Hearty Congratulations to:**

- Maharukh & Firdosh Mehta, on the birth of their granddaughter, **Ava, on Feb. 7, 2010**. Proud parents are Dr. Rohaan & Feroza Mehta.
- Grand dad, Homi Gandhi; proud parents, Shazneen & Hanoz Gandhi, on the birth of their son, **Jedd Pese on April 23, 2010**
- Mahrukh & Rohinton Cama on their 40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.
- Elchi Nowrojee and Janet Immermann on the Navjot of their daughter **Margaret**, in Mumbai on February 14, 2010.

Our Best Wishes to all the families!

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❖ **Our Sincere Condolences to the families of:**

- Maharukh & Viraf Comissariat, on the sudden demise of Maharukh's father, **Jal E. Kapadia** on March 13, in Mumbai, India.
- Diane & Keki Mody, on the passing away of Diane's mother, **Khorshed Mody** on Feb. 22, 2010 in Randolph, NJ.
- Savak Madon & family, on the passing away of his mother, **Aloo F. Madon**, on April 9.

ZAGNY expresses it's heartfelt sympathy to all members of their families.

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**Want to share some news or make an announcement in our newsletter?**

Please contact **Behroz Dutia** or email to [Secretary@zagny.org](mailto:Secretary@zagny.org). We will be glad to include it in our next newsletter as time and space permits. Please note that all information in the newsletter is posted on ZAGNY's website and is made public. So we request members to use their discretion when submitting their news or information.

## ZAGNY - MUKTAD PRAYERS

August 14 to August 18, 2010

- I am enclosing herewith my contribution for prayers @ \$5.00 per name (max. 6 names) to defray costs for this event: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - I understand there is no charge for lunch on Sun. Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at the Darbe Mehr, but please accept my volunteer donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- No. of people for lunch on Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> **TOTAL AMOUNT** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name, First Name (Please print)

Contact phone number

Kindly recite the following names of our departed ones during the Muktdad prayers

	Circle one	First Name of the Deceased Fill in BLOCK letters	Circle One	First Name of Deceased's Father/Husband Fill in BLOCK letters
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	

- Please circle correct status for each name.
- 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.
- All names submitted will be recited when prayers are performed during the Muktdad days.
- Please note no names will be accepted over the phone or once prayers have started during Muktdad days.

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)

Please make *CHECKS PAYABLE* to **ZAGNY, memo: Muktdad** and mail it along with this form to reach us by **AUGUST 3, 2010 to:** Nina Mistry, Attn. Muktdad prayers,  
 28 Crossway, Scarsdale, NY 10583

*ZAGNY thanks Testar & Noshir Irani for hosting the lunch on Sunday at the Darbe Mehr in memory of Testar's mother.*





# PATETTI MUBARK

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 2010**

Pomona Darbe-Mehr, 106 Pomona Road, Suffern, NY 10901

Registration – 6:15 PM  
Cocktails (Cash Bar) – 7:00 PM  
Dinner – 9:00 PM  
onwards

Prayers – 6:30 PM  
Entertainment – 8:00 PM  
Dancing – 9:45 PM



**LIVE BAND – THE RADIO JETS**



On Line registration for this event will be available shortly on our web site.  
**Please DO NOT mail this form if you plan to register on line.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Contact phone #** \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name First Name

ADULT MEMBERS:	_____	@ \$35.00 =	\$_____
SENIOR CITIZENS (65 & OVER):	_____	@ \$30.00 =	\$_____
CHILDREN (11-14 Yrs):	_____	@ \$25.00 =	\$_____
CHILDREN (5-10 Yrs.): (Under 5 yrs. Free)	_____	@ \$20.00 =	\$_____
NON-MEMBERS:	_____	@ \$45.00 =	\$_____
DONATION _____ (Please specify which fund)			\$_____

Please make your check payable to: **ZAGNY** **TOTAL:** \$\_\_\_\_\_  
and mail to: Treasurer, Kerman Dukandar  
96 Bernard Avenue, Edison, NJ 08837  
Tel 732-494-7976; 732-742-2275

**At the Gate Fee and Registration received after AUGUST 10, 2010  
will be charged \$55 per person.**

**ZAGNY reserves the right to close off registration at any time.  
Registration fee is non-refundable.**

Visit our web site: [WWW.ZAGNY.ORG](http://WWW.ZAGNY.ORG)

ZAGNY  
106 Pomona Road  
Suffern, NY 10901



Phone  
845-362-2104



E-Mail  
Secretary@Zagny.org

### CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>JULY 2010</b>		
7/25	ZAGNY PICNIC – CHEESEQUAKE PARK, MATWAAN, NJ	
<b>AUGUST 2010</b>		
8/14, 8/16, 8/17, 8/18	MUKTAD PRAYERS AT HOST FAMILY HOMES (RSVP 8/3/10)	
8/15	11:00 AM	MUKTAD PRAYERS AT DARBE MEHR (RSVP 8/3/10)
8/21	6:15 PM	PATETTI FUNCTION(RSVP 8/10/10)
<b>SEPTEMBER 2010</b>		
9/ 12	1:00 PM	ZAGNY RELIGIOUS CLASSES RESUME (Note 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month)
<b>OCTOBER 2010</b>		
10/3	1:00 PM	ZAGNY RELIGIOUS CLASS

Have a safe and fun



summer everyone!

ZAGNY  
106 Pomona Road  
Suffern, NY 10901

