

ZAGNY NEWSLETTER - APRIL 1999

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

• APRIL 25th	11:30 a.m. - FUND RAISER LUNCHEON FOR PARSİ GENERAL HOSPITAL
• MAY 2nd	10:30 a.m. – SEMINAR ON “FAITH, BELIEF & THE COMMUNITY” 2:00 P.M. - RELIGIOUS CLASS
• MAY 16th	11:00 a.m. OPEN DISCUSSION ON THE SUBJECT - ZOROASTRIANS – MOVE ONTO THE NEXT CENTURY
• MAY 23rd	DMZT AGM AND ELECTION
• JULY 1st to 4th	6th ZOROASTRIAN OLYMPICS IN LOS ANGELES, CA
• AUG. 21st	PATETI FUNCTION
• SEPT. 24th to 26th	SECOND INT. AVESTA CONFERENCE

NEW ZAGNY BOARD 1999 - 2002

The new ZAGNY Board members and their positions are:

President	-	Gev F. Nentin	<u>5 - Members at large:</u>
Vice-President	-	Dinshaw F. Bardoliwalla	Homi M. Byramji
Treasurer	-	Jasmin M. Kotwal	Mahrukh R. Cama
Secretary	-	Sheroo V. Kanga	Spenta R. Cama
Joint Secretary	-	Vispi D. Kanga	Kamal V. Davar
			Temilyn V. Ghadially

The new board plans to give priority to the implementation of the results of the survey conducted sometime back, and to the new Darbe Mehr project that has been outlined in the previous newsletter. To serve you better we ask that you send us your suggestions and ideas.

JAMSHEDI NAVROZE FUNCTION AND ZAGNY BOARD ELECTION:

The Jamshedi Navroze function was held on March 20th, 1999 at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral. We had a gathering of 300+ people and everyone had a good time. The function began with the recitation of GATHA prayers by Ervad Darius Antia and Prof. Kaikhosrov Irani. Before beginning the Annual General Meeting, Professor Jacob Stern, who was conferred an honorary membership by ZAGNY, was introduced to the community by Prof. Kaikhosrov Irani. The President, Gev Nentin then called the Annual General Meeting to order. He welcomed everyone with good wishes for a Happy Navroze – one filled with health, happiness and prosperity. He gave an account of ZAGNY’s fulfillment of its commitment to host the Eleventh North American Zoroastrian Congress.

NAVROZE FUNCTION AND ELECTION: (CONTD.)

He said “I give all Board members and members of the entire tri-state community an A+ for their efforts and results. This was a fantastic success for our community. It is a clear lesson in what we can accomplish together if we do not work at cross-purposes with one another. Our entire community had come alive.”

He also mentioned the special effort to work together with friends from IZA and the celebration of Navroze functions together.

The absence of religious ceremonies at our functions was mentioned. Certain priestly differences were suggested as a contributing factor. Gev informed the attendees that we are working on compromises. He informed us that our membership had grown, and that we must make every effort to retain our new members and not lose them through community inattention.

He stressed that the community is in need for a new cultural center. Even though our DARBE MEHR is very dear to us, the facts are pretty stark that it does not serve our needs. ZAGNY spends \$15 – 20,000 per year to support a structure that is used by 10% of its population 10 times a year. To address this serious deficiency, the Boards of ZAGNY, IZA and DMZT trustees have all come together and support a project that will give us a new structure. He requested the members of the NZTCC to let bygones be bygones and give the new project, the same enthusiastic support as before.

Gev then recognized the efforts of the outgoing board members, Noshir Langrana, Armaity Patel, Viraf Commissariat, Minu Dutia & Teshtar Irani and honored them by giving a token of appreciation.

The Secretary Mrs. Armaity Patel then presented the Secretary’s report and mentioned the activities of the past three years, including the successful congress. She recognized the efforts of– Kaizad Cama, Ushta Davar, Avan Patel, and more for conducting the prayer classes. She also recognized the fund raising efforts of Yasmin Ghadiali, Sheroo Kanga, Pervin Shroff & Mahrukh Cama. She mentioned what a super job Villy Gandhi had done with the Good Life Program and congratulated all the children who earned the good life emblem.

The Treasurer Mr. Dinshaw Bardoliwalla then addressed the meeting and presented the financial statements of ZAGNY which were approved by everyone present by a show of hands. The financial statements are attached with this newsletter.

Mrs. Pari Kameh of IZA gave a brief description of the Haftsin Table that was so beautifully set.

After the reports were read the President went on to the business of elections for a new Board. The President asked for a motion that would allow all five Members-at-large to serve on the Board for the next term. There was no objection from the floor and the resolution was passed unanimously, based on a voice vote. Mr. Nentin then introduced the nominees for the new board. Members gave a brief introduction of themselves. The current ZAGNY members were then asked to cast their votes and submit the ballot in the box provided on the stage. The election committee members were identified and they were, Framroze Patel, Noshir Langrana and Viraf Commissariat. The votes were then counted, the required quorum was met with and the new board was elected. (names given on page 1)

Mr. Zubeen Shroff, President of the DMZT Trustees, then presented the current status of the situation with Mr. Shapur Doctor and the Union. He informed the community that Mr. Doctor’s services would be terminated as of May 31st, 1999. He also provided the details of a transitional proposal offered to Mr. Doctor.

Many people worked to make this function a success. We thank Kamal Davar & family for preparing the food, Mehru Cama, Kaizad Cama and Ushta Davar for setting up at the hall. Homi & Ellen Byramji, Dinshaw Bardoliwalla, Rohinton Cama for attending to the registration and the Election Committee for running the election. The raffle organized by Kamal Davar and Sheroo Kanga, collected \$812.00. Thanks to our children, Vira Byramji, Persis Commissariat, Kaveh Mama, Kerman Patel and Friya Tarapore for selling the raffle tickets. The raffle & dance contest prizes were donated by Hutoxi & Dinshaw Bardoliwalla, Mahrukh & Rohinton Cama, Maharukh & Viraf Commissariat, Kamal & Virasp Davar, Beroz & Minu Dutia, Yasmin & Jamshed Ghadiali, Teshtar & Noshir Irani, Dinaz & Noshir Langrana and Aban & Gev Nentin. Many thanks to Gool Baria and Mahrukh Cama for their help and Dinshaw Bardoliwalla for conducting the raffle.

NEWSLETTER - SPECIAL CHILDREN’S ISSUE:

WE WILL BE PUBLISHING A SPECIAL NEWSLETTER, COVERING THE ESSAYS WRITTEN BY OUR CHILDREN AT THEIR RELIGION CLASSES. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO INCLUDE IN THIS NEWSLETTER ANY SIGNIFICANT RECOGNITION THAT THESE CHILDREN HAVE RECEIVED DURING THE PAST YEAR. PARENTS ARE REQUESTED TO PLEASE SEND THIS INFORMATION, BY MAY 7th, 1999, TO THE SECRETARY, AT THE ADDRESS GIVEN ON THE FRONT PAGE.

SEMINAR ON “FAITH, BELIEF AND COMMUNITY”:

There will be a seminar on the subject of “Faith, Belief and Community”, organized by Prof. Kaikhosrov Irani on May 2nd, 1999 at 10:30 a.m., followed by the religion class. Faculty members from other communities have been invited. There will be an open discussion on contemporary issues facing the community. Everyone is invited to attend.

DONATIONS:

<u>General Fund:</u>	Nilufer & Kaika Clubwala	-	\$100.00
	Yasmin & Jamshed Ghadiali	-	\$ 35.00
	Aban & Gev Nentin	-	\$ 51.00
<u>Critical Assistance Fund:</u>	Mr. Behram Buhariwalla		\$ 50.00
	Mr. Kaizad Cama	-	\$ 40.00

CONDOLENCES:

Our condolences to Rusi, Homi & Villy Gandhi on the sad demise of their Nephew Arvin, son of Mani and Murli Rao of Chicago. Arvin was only 16-years old and became a victim of a tragic car accident.

ZOROASTRIANS – MOVE ONTO THE NEXT CENTURY:

On Sunday May 16th, 1999 there will be an open meeting, to highlight unanswered cultural & religious issues facing our community, as it moves onto the next century. The session will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Darbe-Meher, New Rochelle, New York. Please see the attached flier and those of you who wish to attend please call Mr. Rustom Bhohti at 609-799-7757 or email – Bhohti@aol.com

NORTH AMERICAN MOBED COUNCIL MEETING NEWSBRIEF:

The two-day meeting of the NAMC hosted by ZAGNY over the Easter week-end was attended by fifteen mobeds from all over United States and Canada. ZAGNY president Gev Nentin and FEZANA president Framroze Patel in their opening addresses welcomed the mobeds and urged them to give serious thought and objective consideration to several issues facing the Zarthushtrian community on this continent.

Various items on the agenda were discussed in detail with varying viewpoints by both liberal and conservative minded mobeds. This year, at their first-ever Extraordinary General Meeting in thirteen years, a resolution, which defined a Zarthushti as a person born of at least one Zarthushti parent, was finally put to vote after three years of serious discussions. A 75% majority vote was needed for the resolution to pass, which was, however defeated as the mobeds considered it not in the interest of the community at the present time.

Highlight of the meeting for ZAGNY community members was the grand Jashan led by Ervad Pervez Patel followed by a briefing of two days' deliberations by NAMC president Ervad Jal Birdy who answered various questions from the gathering. The minutes of the meeting will be mailed to all associations as usual when ready. Anyone interested may request a copy from their respective association secretaries. Our own Kamal Davar did a superb job of preparing appetizers and a delicious dinner. Ervad Pervez Patel once again takes this opportunity to thank the Trustees of Darbe Meher and ZAGNY Board Members for their generous hospitality as well as all the families who graciously volunteered to host the delegates and everyone who attended the Jashan and dinner, making this event a success.

PARSI GENERAL HOSPITAL FUND RAISER LUNCHEON:

The above luncheon will be held on April 25th 1999, at 11:30 a.m. Those interested in attending please call Yasmin Ghadiali at 516-378-4516. All donations should be made to ZAGNY – Critical Assistance Fund.

MESSAGE FROM AVAN PATEL:

Dear Friends: I thank you so very much for those of you, who have supported my “American Cancer Society - Daffodil Days Program” - every month of March – for the past 11 years. I would like to continue doing this ‘WITH YOUR SUPPORT’ as long as you and I can help even one needy individual in a year. I am very sorry that due to distances, I could not deliver “Fresh Daffodils” to you but over the last few years, I have been donating flowers to the Hospital on ALL your behalf and I am attaching the “THANK YOU” card received by me from the Hospital. Once again I thank you ALL very very much.

Dear Avan: Thank you so very much for the daffodils, which we delivered to the patients. They were delighted to get them and most of all for free. Thank you for your thoughtfulness. May God Bless you for your kindness. Sincerely,
Sr. Stephanie, Volunteer Dept. ST. John’s Hospital

THE SIXTH ZOROASTRIAN OLYMPICS:

The Zoroastrian Sports Committee of FEZANA announces The 6th Zoroastrian Olympics to be held in Los Angeles, CA, on July 1 – 4, 1999. For more information contact them at: ZSC P. O. Box 66828 Los Angeles, CA – 90066 Tel. No. 310-643-8072.

NEW WEB SITE SERVER FOR ZARATHUSHTI BUSINESSES:

Alta Visions would like to announce WWW.ZARATHUSHT.COM. The idea is to help as many Zarathushtis to use the web to its full potential. This is a cost-effective solution for Zarathushti businesses and individuals no matter how big or small they are, to get a Website. AltaVisions specializes in internet Software, WebSite Design, and Construction using the latest tools and technology. They have 15 years of experience in putting information technology to your business use. Established in Massachusetts since 1996, they specialize in putting small businesses on the internet. AltaVisions is offering Web Sites and Web Pages for all Zarathushti related material on a special domain and server setup for this purpose. The address is: <http://www.Zarathusht.com>. Please visit www.Zarathusht.com for more details. If you have any question please contact -

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RAFFLE FUND RAISER FOR THE 7TH WORLD ZOROASTRIAN CONGRESS:

The winners of the above raffle were:

1 st prize - Two tickets on Lufthansa to India	-	Mr. Cyrus Mehta of Wayne, PA
2 nd prize - Two registrations for the Congress	-	Mr. Rohinton Desai of Houston, TX
3 rd prize - A VCR	-	Ms. Arnaz Marker of Florida.

SECOND INTERNATIONAL AVESTA CONFERENCE:

The 2nd International Avesta Conference, sponsored by the Zoroastrian Education and Research Society (ZERS), will be held on September 24 – 26, 1999 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, at Ramada Hotel, (Downtown) 708-8th Avenue, S.W. Calgary. Please see attached registration form. For more details please contact Dr. Pallan R. Ichaporia, Chairman, at Tel. No. 610-589-5419 e-mail: Pichaporia@aol.com.

ZOROASTRIANS – MOVE ONTO THE NEXT CENTURY:

This is an open invitation to all Zoroastrian members of ZAGNY, IZA, ZAPANJ and other associations to attend an open meeting, to highlight unanswered cultural & religious issues facing our community, as it moves onto the next century. The session will start with brief presentations from the following speakers.

Where: Darb-e-Meher, New Rochelle, New York
When: Sunday May 16th 1999 from 11 am to 5 pm

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
The identification of Religion, Race and Community	To be announced
Zoroastrianism - Impact of Past on Present	Prof. Kaikhoshrov Irani
Zoroastrianism - a Bombay Priest's talk to ZAPANJ	Ms. Diana Dadachanji
Zoroastrian Priesthood in the next Century	Mr. Behram Panthaki
Community education (specially children)	Dr. Lovji Cama
Zoroastrianism - A vision for the future	Ms. Dina McIntyre

Agenda

- 11:00 - 12:00 Lunch, compliments of "The Palace" (Mr. Nick Maneckshaw)
- 12:00 - 02:00 6 presentations of 15 minutes each, on above mentioned topics.
Each presentation to be followed by a 5 minute Q & A
- 02:00 - 02:30 Tea break
- 03:00 onwards Open discussion to formulate the expected outcomes, listed below.

Ground rules for the discussions:

- Every attendee has the right to their own views and is allowed to express the same.
- Avoid lengthy, never ending debates (we are known for these)
- Encourage discussions & suggestions that :
 - Have a positive approach
 - Show a concrete path for resolution
 - Foster unity among the differing viewpoints
- Discourage placid attitudes e.g. :
 - Things have been like this from the past and we cannot change
 - We cannot change now. It will take a generation to change.
 - We are not the responsible body for these issues
 - We do not have funds for this type of activity
- Discourage any attempt at further polarization of the community

Expected outcome:

- A listing of open issues
- A write-up on the questions, with a summary of participants' viewpoints
- Publish an open letter in community magazines like "Fezana", "Parsiana", etc. outlining the topics being discussed.
- Solicit community leaders / elders, to provide concrete resolutions to the open issues

Please RSVP your attendance by May 1st 1999, to Rustom Bhopti @ 609-799-7757 or bhopti@aol.com Mention your name and # of attendees to help organize the lunch.

Please bring along our youth. They are our future. We need their input.