



Issue 3

Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York

June 2002 Newsletter

Co-Chairs Newsletter Committee: *Arnavaz F. Patel; Diana M. Dinshaw* zagny_secretary@lycos.com
Editor: *Shazneen Rabadi* Guest Authors: *Farishta Dinshaw, Gulestan Deboo, Nawaz Merchant, Vispi Kanga*

Special Interest Articles:

- ✚ Farvardegan
- ✚ Gahambars
- ✚ Prof. Irani's Seminar

MUKTAD PRAYERS

This year, the ZAGNY Community can participate in the Muktdad Prayers for all five days from Friday, 16th August to Tuesday, 20th August, 2002. 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.

Friday August 16th Long Island, NY
Hosts: Yasmin and Jamshed Ghadiali
Time: 7:00 pm

Saturday August 17th Queens, NY
Hosts: Teshtar and Noshir Irani
Time: 4:30 pm

Sunday August 18th Darbe Mehr
Pomona, NY
Host: ZAGNY
Time: 11:00 am

Monday August 19th Princeton, NJ
Hosts: Dinaz and Noshir Langrana
Time: 7:00 pm

Tuesday August 20th Stamford, CT
Hosts: Goolu and Noshir Baria
Time: 7:00 pm

Please send your list of names and the location you will attend the prayers at with your payment to: Goolu Baria, 83 Skyview Drive, Stamford, CT 06902-1510, by August 5, 2002. Checks should be made out to ZAGNY.

Any other questions should be sent to: zagny_secretary@lycos.com ATTN: "Muktdad Prayers Committee" or you can contact Usheen Davar @ 917-432-5214 (press mailbox # 2), or Goolu Baria @ 203-353-8651.

There will be a charge of \$5 per name to be recited during the Muktdad prayer days. Our Mobeds will recite submitted names on all five days of the Muktdad prayers at all locations. Please limit 4 names per family and also mention the word Behdin or Osta before the names so that Mobeds can recite accordingly. ZAGNY will have a lunch following the prayers on Sunday, August 18th, 2002.

Donations/contributions are appreciated. The collected monies from this event will go into the ZAGNY Critical Assistance Fund (our charity fund).

Directions to all locations of interest will be provided once your list with your indication of location/date is received.

Professor Irani's Seminar Receives Great Reviews

By: Gulestan Deboo, Nawaz Merchant, Vispi Kanga

On June 23, 2002, Professor Irani led a seminar on Zarathushtra's Vision and the Inspiration of Civilization. The Newsletter Committee asked participants to provide their feedback regarding the event. This is what they had to say:

By: Gulestan Deboo

The informative Presentation by Professor Kaikhosrov Irani on how Zarathushtra's teachings changed Iranian tribal existence in to a great society & civilization was very interesting & thought provoking.

We are very fortunate to have a credible & knowledgeable person in Professor Irani to enlighten us on our religion, history & culture.

Professor Irani is to be congratulated on his commitment to us & the ZAGNY sponsors are to be commended for this effort. The 50th wedding anniversary celebration of Professor & Mrs. Irani was a very warm & thoughtful gesture on the part of Armaity F. Patel. Congratulations Professor & Mrs. Irani. (cont. on page 13)



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ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW YORK

BRIEF NEWS

ZAGNY SCHLOARSHIP FUND

ZAGNY invites applications for Financial Assistance (Scholarship/Loan) from its members who are studying at institutions in the United States. Applicants should be full-time students. The last date for filing an application is September 1, 2002.

Additional information and forms can be obtained from the Scholarship Committee chairperson:

Cyrus F. Hirjibehedin

600 W. 114th Street, Apt. 1W, NY, NY 10025,

Tel: 212-663-5768; E-mail: cfh6@columbia.edu

AN APPEAL FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT by WZO

Mitra Irani of Pune, just fourteen year of age, was diagnosed to be HIV positive, three years ago. The rest of the family has had themselves tested and thankfully, they have been found to be HIV negative. There is no way that the family can expect to meet medical expenses of Rs.20, 000 every month except by way of donations.

The WZO Trust for Women & Children had raised funds by way of public appeals during August 2000 and October 2001 for Mitra, and has been extended support totaling Rs.5,50,000. Mitra has showing some positive progress during these years. It has become necessary to send this additional appeal. We do request you to kindly consider extending further support to the deserving Irani family. ZAGNY recommends that donations may be sent to: -

**The WZO Trust For Women & Children,
Shanti, 5th floor, 6, Banaji Street, Fort,
Mumbai 400 001.**

[Donations to the WZO Trust For Women & Children are exempt u/s 80G (5) of Income Tax Act 1961 Vide letter ref: DIT (E)/MC/80G/2498/2000-2001 dated 8th May 2000, permission valid up to 31st March 2003.]

Very Sincerely,

Dinshaw K Tamboly

Managing Trustee

A MESSAGE FROM THE BAMJI FAMILY

We wish to thank our friends and well wishers for their kind thoughts and condolences on the loss of our beloved Merwan Bamji, husband to Dolat, father to Edul and Tehnaz, and grandfather to Zarina and Spenta. Your kindness was a great comfort to our family.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

The Bamji Family

WE APPRECIATE YOUR DONATIONS

GENERAL FUND	
Ashodad	\$ 73.00
NEW BUILDING FUND	
Rustom and Farangis Bhopti	\$100.00
Homayar Gandhi	\$ 11.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS



CONGRATULATIONS TO

Kaikhosrov and Piroja Irani, as they begin their 50th year of marriage!!

Shiraz and Zarir Unvala who were wed on June 21, 2002.

Ushtavaity Davar, the new joint-editor for the "Youthfully Speaking" column of the FEZANA Journal. Send your ideas and topics to Ushta@aol.com.



CHANGE IN CONTACT INFORMATION

Kamal Davar: kamaldavar@aol.com

Cyrus Deboo: cndeboo@aya.yale.edu

Sheroo & Vispi Kanga: kangavs@yahoo.com

Tanaz Dutia: Oakley, NJ

Homayar Gandhi: Old Westbury, NY

Firoze and Khorshed Jungalwala: Sudbury, MA

Daisy and Faruk Presswalla: Princeton, NJ



NEW MEMBERS

ZAGNY welcomes Homayar Gandhi and Firoze and Khorshed Jungalwala to our community.



OUR CONDOLENCES TO

Katy Edulji, Nazneen and Shavir Vimadalal and Adil and Nina Edulji, on the passing of their beloved Jimmy Edulji on June 18th, 2002.

Dolat Bamji and family on the passing of their beloved Merwan Bamji on May 25, 2002.

Sheroo and Vispi Kanga on the death of Sheroo's sister Perin Framroze Damania in Bulsar, India on June 29th, 2002

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

July 2002	August 2002 (details/forms enclosed)
4-7 12th North American Zoroastrian Congress, Chicago	2-4 Zoroastrian Young Adult Camp
12-14 IZA Tirgan Camping Event (details/forms enclosed)	11 ZAGNY Family Picnic
	16-20 Muktaḍ Prayers
	24 Papeti Function
Upcoming Events: September 7 – IZA Persian Language Classes September 8 – ZAGNY Religious Class October 5 – IZA Persian Language Classes October 6 – ZAGNY Religious Class October 20 – Udvada Fundraising Luncheon	

PAPETI FUNCTION

TO PRE-REGISTER OR TO OBTAIN A FORM, E-MAIL ZAGNY_SECRETARY@LYCOS.COM

The Pomona Darbe-Mehr will be the site of this year's Papeti function, which will be held on August 24, 2002. All are encouraged to register at 5:30 PM, a jashan will commence at 6:00 PM, followed by dinner.

For details, refer to pages 12 and 13. To avoid the late registration charges, your forms must be received by August 10, 2002. The registration form will also be published in next month's newsletter.



ACCLAIMED SCREENWRITER/PHOTOGRAPHER SOONI TARAPOREVALA TO BE HONORED

Sooni Taraporevala, the acclaimed Parsi Zoroastrian screenwriter and photographer (she wrote 2 of her acclaimed scripts in New York), is being honored at a gala event on July 27th. The event's official hotel Sponsor is the Radisson East, managed by Sam Bhadha. ZAGNY member Tamina Davar is producing the tribute video on Taraporevala which will be shown at the July 27th event.

To buy tickets go to www.saaids.org and PLEASE SEE EVENT FLYER in this newsletter.

IZA TIRGAN CAMPING EVENT and PERSIAN CLASSES

The Iranian Zoroastrian Association will be organizing:

-  a 3 night camp for families at the Pomona Darbe Mehr. There will be sporting events and many additional activities. For cost information and any additional questions, please contact Shirin Kiamanish at 631-306-9262.
-  a Persian Language class for children and adults from September 2002. Classes initially emphasize conversational skills, and then gradually introduce students to basic reading, writing, and grammar. For pricing details and registration, please contact Marzie Jafari, 292 South Mountain Rd., New City, NY 10956

WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU...

The Newsletter Committee solicits your comments. Also, we are solicitation articles on the 2002 Chicago Congress and book reviews of recent publications advertised in this newsletter. We can be reached at zagny_secretary@lycos.com.

FARVARDEGAN: REMEMBERING THE FUTURE

By: Farishta

Dinshaw

Ten days before the beginning of the new calendar year, Zarathushtis spend time remembering family and friends who no longer walk the earth. The likes of Sylvia Browne aside, few can say with any certainty what happens after we die, so this tradition of observing Farvardegan is largely symbolic...and movingly poetic...if you grasp the inherent meaning of the term. Farvardegan is Pahlavi for “days of nourishment”. This observance is better known to Zarathushti-Parsis as Muktaḍ which is derived from the Sanskrit words muktaḍ atma meaning “free soul”.

According to Zarathushti belief, during the ten Farvardegan days souls return to Earth, escorted by highly-evolved souls known as “ashaunam fravashinam”. They come down to cleanse the earth, to answer calls for help and, perhaps, to enjoy some time with their loved ones. In return, they ask for fond remembrance and nourishment to keep their strength up for the work they have been called upon to do. According to the Avesta, the fravashis sing,

Who will praise us?
 Who will offer us prayers?
 Who will meditate upon us?
 Who will love us?
 Who will receive and welcome us with food and clothes in hand
 and with a prayer worthy of bliss?

It is because of this belief that the practice of setting fragrant flowers, new clothes and favorite meals every day for ten days evolved. At dawn on New Year's Day (Fravardin mah, Hormazd roj), a special dron and afrinagan ceremony is performed to bid farewell to the fravashis. In olden days, families used to continue to pray for an additional seven days, giving the souls enough time to return to their ethereal destination.

Nowadays, we're so busy with our lives that the tradition of observing Farvardegan at home is slowly dying out. It is being relegated to a formality that we have no time for, with prayers recited by Mobeds, who did not know the souls they pray for, at the local Darbe-Mehr. The people who shaped our past are intrinsically woven into our futures, and it is only by remembering them that we move forward. Not only is Farvardegan of social importance since the prevailing mood is getting ready to welcome cherished guests so the house gets a thorough cleaning and families get together, it also has emotional value as we learn to let go differences and distances that grew while people were alive. Furthermore, Farvardegan and is of spiritual significance as we are reminded of the fleeting nature of our own existence. It is also a great time to celebrate the living — to take out the time to write that email, make that phone call, mail those photographs that we have been meaning to for ages.

Finally, the Farvardegan days can be used to touch base with our roots by recounting family anecdotes. You know the story about how Grandpapa gate crashed the Mayor's wedding, or how Kholeh Mehri dozed off in the middle of chairing an important public meeting. This nurtures our sense of belonging, of continuity, and that is something we need to hold on to in the diverse and multi-cultural society that we live in today.

South Asia Against AIDS Foundation (SAA AIDS)

Requests the Honor of Your Company At The

Second Annual Benefit Gala and Art Auction

Televised by Sony Entertainment Television Asia (SET Asia)

Saturday, July 27, 2002
6:45 pm – 11:00 pm

The Supper Club: 240 West 47th Street (Between 8th Avenue & Broadway), New York City

Black Tie/ National Dress Optional

Evening Highlights:

- International Silent Art Auction
(featuring first-ever sale of selected photos by Sooni Taraporevala)
- Short Video Presentation on Taraporevala
- Video Presentation on SAA AIDS' work
- Reception, Open Bar
- Dinner and Award Presentations
- Live Music by Omar Alexander
- VIP Raffle; Dancing

Regular Ticket: \$175

VIP Ticket: \$250

To purchase gala tickets/tables, please visit www.SAA AIDS.org. Deadline: Friday, July 26. Names held at the door. SAA AIDS cannot provide cancellations or refunds.

ADDITIONAL EVENT:

"The Art of Love"

(Pre-Gala Art Auction Reception)

Thursday, July 18

6:30pm – 10:00 pm

Gallery Arts India: 206 Fifth Ave.

(Between 25th/26th Streets)

Catering by *TABLA* restaurant

\$40 Entrance (cash or check)

SAA AIDS: 350 Third Avenue,
Suite 197, New York, NY 10010

T: (212) 332-9148,

Asha@SAA AIDS.org

www.SAA AIDS.org

Recipient of the Heartsong Award

SOONI TARAPOREVALA

Screenwriter and Photographer

Taraporevala's acclaimed career has long illuminated marginalized communities and themes – from writing the screenplays for the Oscar-nominated film *Salaam Bombay*, as well as *Mississippi Masala*, *Such a Long Journey*, *My Own Country*, and *Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar* – to publishing her groundbreaking book of photography on her own community, *Parsis: the Zoroastrians of India – a Photographic Journey*. Her most recent commissioned project is writing a script on the Taj Mahal.

Recipient of Excellence in Public Service Award

CONGRESSMAN FRANK PALLONE (D-NJ)

Founder /Former Chairman of the House of
Representatives' Caucus of Indians and Indian-Americans

Invited Guests:

Mira Nair, speaking in honor of Sooni Taraporevala

Devan Nambiar, HIV/AIDS Activist and Health Consultant

SAA AIDS
Empowering South Asia's Women and Children

South Asia Against AIDS Foundation (SAA AIDS) is a NYC-based not-for-profit organization whose mission is to help South Asia's women and children lead lives of true self-empowerment through our SHE strategy (Shelter, Healthcare and Education) as an effective, structural and long-term strategy to fight South Asia's HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Zoroastrian Young Adult Camp (Ages 16-39) Registration Form

The 2001 Zoroastrian Young Adult Camp will be held August 2nd – 4th at the Darbe Mehr. The camp is open to all Zoroastrians between the ages of 16 and 39. This event provides an opportunity to get together with fellow Zoroastrians, have fun and maybe even learn a little. If you know some Zoroastrians who may not have heard of the camp, please share this information with them.

The camp will begin on Friday, August 2nd at 5:00pm and end on Sunday, August 4th at 3:00pm. If you are unable to join the camp on Friday you may meet up with us Saturday morning. The camp will be held at the new Darbe Mehr. There will be facilities for showering. Meals will be provided. The contribution for the camp is \$35.00.

You will need to bring your own sleeping gear (bag, blanket, pad, pillow, etc.), change of clothes, toiletries and a positive attitude. You may want to bring swimwear, sneakers, bug repellent, CDs and tapes, games. No alcoholic beverages will be allowed at the camp.

We hope you are able to join us for a weekend of fun. A map and directions to the camp will be sent to you when you register.

Please fill out the form below and return it with your contribution (please make checks payable to ZAGNY) to Xerxes Kotval, 23 Saddle Court, Tinton Falls, NJ 07753 by July 26th. If you have any questions please contact Xerxes Kotval at (in order of preference):

email:
xerxes@lucent.com

Home: 732-922-6765

Office: 732-949-5489

Mobile: 732-682-3035

Registration Slip for Zoroastrian Young Adult Camp

Name: _____ Birth date: ____ / ____ / ____

Phone Number(s): _____ Parent's Phone Number (if under 18): _____

Email Address: _____ Parent's Email Address (if under 18): _____

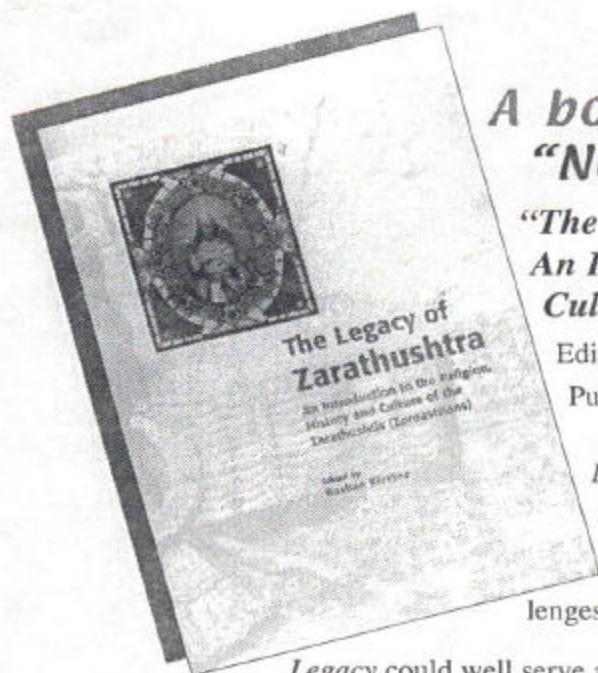
Mailing Address: _____

Dietary Constraints: _____

I, _____, would like to attend the Young Adult camp August 2nd to August 4th 2002. My contribution of \$35.00 is enclosed (Please make checks payable to ZAGNY). If attendee is under the age of 18, a parent or legal guardian must sign this form.

_____/____/____ OR ____/____/____
Signature Date Signature of Parent/Guardian Date

Please fill out this registration form for the Zoroastrian Young Adult Camp and return it with your contribution (payable to ZAGNY) to
Xerxes Kotval, 23 Saddle Court, Tinton Falls, NJ 07753
by July 26, 2001.



A book to share with our "North American Neighbors"

**"The Legacy of Zarathushtra:
An Introduction to the Religion, History and
Culture of the Zoroastrians (Zarathushtis),**

Edited by Roshan Rivetna

Published by FEZANA, 100 p. 2002.

Legacy presents the monumental saga of the Zarathushti faith and its peoples, from ancient origins, covering doctrines and rituals, contributions to world religious thought, history, art and culture, down to contemporary practice and challenges, all packaged in an attractive, copiously illustrated volume.

Legacy could well serve as "Zoroastrianism 101" for Zarathushtis and non-Zarathushtis alike. Use this book to:

- Bring awareness of our religion and community, to your friends and neighbors.
- Place it in your local town, school or university library.
- When school and college students seek information, point them to this book.
- Youth will find it useful for show-n-tell at their school or college.
- Use it for showcasing our religion to the media and to the press.

It is our hope that a copy of *Legacy* will be on coffee-tables in every Zarathushti household in North America (next to a copy of FEZANA Journal, of course). **THANK YOU!**

Khorshed Jungalwala
Chair, Publication

Roshan Rivetna
Editor, FEZANA Journal

ALL FEZANA Journal subscribers will receive a complimentary copy with their Summer 2002 issue. To order additional copies, please enclose check, credit card info or money order in **US dollars**, payable to "FEZANA", and mail to: Roshan Rivetna, 5750 South Jackson Street, Hinsdale, IL, 60521, tel: (630) 325-5383. Credit Card orders may be faxed to (301) 765-0794.

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ZAGNY FAMILY PICNIC

AUGUST 11, 2002 IN BEAUTIFUL SUSSEX COUNTY, NJ AT TOMAHAWK LAKE

Now that the hot months of summer are upon us, it's an ideal time to have a picnic. Mark your calendars for Sunday, August 11th. ZAGNY is planning a day of fun, food and games!!

Tomahawk Lake offers many exciting attractions, including, but not limited to, an 18 acre crystal clear lake, a fabulous Kiddie Water World, the largest white sand beach in Sussex County, a 503 foot Black Snake waterslide, a 512 foot Rocky Mountain waterslide, a 70 foot high Speed Slide, a Rampage watercoaster, a dual serpentine slides, bumper boats, paddle boats, row boats, an 18 hole miniature golf course, an arcade, volleyball, horseshoes, ping pong and more!

We urge you to come and join us for action packed games of Volleyball, Gilli Danda, Cricket and Water Balloons, for the young and young at heart. Don't forget your swimsuits and towels for those who would like to enjoy the swimming and boating facilities.

Bring your favorite potluck picnic dish (enough to share with 8-10 people). Grills are available for those who wish to cook out. As a treat ZAGNY will provide watermelon, iced tea, hot tea and charcoal for the cook out.

ZAGNY WILL HAVE A RESERVED PICNIC SPOT, SO LOOK FOR OUR "ZAGNY" SIGNS (or follow your nose to the delicious aroma of Parsi poro.)

Admission is \$9.00 per person and \$7.00 for children under 8 yrs. old (price includes admission, parking, use of the beach, swimming, kiddie park and picnic tables.) Some of the Waterslides and boat rides will have a separate admission charge. The park opens at 9:00 AM, so plan to be there early.

Please contact Vispi & Sheroo Kanga at 201-227-1890 or Toni & Viraf Ghadially at 732-972-6527 if you plan to attend. We sure hope you can join us. For more details you can visit the Tomahawk Lake website at www.tomahawklake.com.

How to Get There



INTERSTATE 80 WEST to Exit 34B

Take Route 15 North. Stay on 15 and take the Lake Forest Exit. Make the second right onto Route 181 North. Go 3 miles and the Village Saloon is on the left. Immediately past that, turn left onto Green Road. Go about 1 – 1 ½ miles and make a left turn onto Tomahawk Trail. Continue on Tomahawk Trail and the Main Tomahawk Lake Entrance will be on your left.

From GARDEN STATE PARKWAY (near Raritan Bridge)

Take interstate 287 North to Interstate 80 West. Follow interstate 80 west directions.

From GARDEN STATE PARKWAY (at Exit 145)

Take interstate 280 West to Interstate 80 West. Follow interstate 80 west directions.

From FRANKLIN, NJ

Take Route 23 South to the road to Ogdensburg and Sparta, Route 517. Route 517 becomes Main Street in Sparta. Main Street becomes Route 181 South (woodport Road) at the lighted intersection by the Sparta Post Office Mall. At a light at the entrance sign to Lake Mohawk, continue straight onto Route 605 south (Stanhope Road). Continue on Route 605 for about 3 miles past the Blessed Kateri Church on the left – Then, turn left onto Tomahawk Trail. The main Tomahawk Lake Entrance will be ½ mile in on the right hand side.



GAHAMBARS

By: Farishta Dinshaw

The people who lived in ancient Iran during Zarathushtra's time were mainly farmers, so they depended on the weather for their livelihood. The different seasons were, therefore, of paramount importance to the ancient Iranians. Avestan texts (books written in the ancient language that was spoken during Zarathushtra's time) divide the Iranian year into two seasons. The first season was "Hama" or summer, and the other was "Zayana" or winter.

The Iranians celebrated six seasonal festivals or "gahambars" such as "the feast of bringing in the corn" or "home-coming feast" when the herds came down from the mountain pastures where they had been grazing. Each festival honored one special creation of Ahura Mazda and the Amesha Spenta or archangel who looks after that creation. The festivities included thanksgiving prayers, sharing food with family and friends, singing and generally having a good time.

Traditionally, each of these gahambars lasted for five days, but the sixth gahambar was later extended to ten days. This gahambar is generally known as Farvardegan, and during this time we remember family members and friends who have died, and invite their spirits into our homes to feast with us. The table below gives details of the different gahambars. (Aren't you glad you don't have to memorize the spellings of their names?)

Gahambar	Season	Creation Honored/ <i>Amesha Spenta</i>	Zarathushti Month
Maidyoizaremaya	Mid-Spring	Sky/ <i>Shehrevan</i>	2nd- Ardibehesht
Maidyoishema	Mid-Summer	Waters/ <i>Khordad</i>	4th – Tir
Paitishahya	Early Autumn (harvesting corn)	Earth/ <i>Aspandarmad</i>	6th - Shehrevan
Ayathrima	Mid-Autumn (home-coming)	Plants/ <i>Amardad</i>	7th – Meher
Maidhyairya	Mid-Winter	Cattle/ <i>Bahman</i>	10th – Dae
Hamaspahmaedaya	Pre-Spring	Man/ <i>Hormazd</i>	12th - Aspandarmad

After the sixth gahambar, the people celebrated the end of winter and coming of spring (Navroze). The funny thing is that because of certain reasons which are once again too complicated to explain briefly, our calendar months kept on shifting over the centuries so now many Zarathushtis celebrate the mid-autumn Ayathrima gahambar in March!

Besides the seasonal gahambar, there is another kind as well. These are gifted to the community by a family in memory of someone special to them. In this kind of gahambar, a jashan is performed in memory of the deceased person and then the family hosts a meal for the whole neighborhood or village. In India and Pakistan, such gahambars are often hosted by rich families as a form of charity. The traditional gahambar menu is dhansak, papeta ma gos (meat with potatoes) and mango ice-cream.

One gahambar has been repeated in the list below. Can you find which one?

**MAIDYOIZAREMAYAAYATHRIMAPAITISHAHYAMAIDHYAIRYAHAMASPATH
MAEDAYAMAIDYOISHEMAMAIDYOISHEMA**

Stories from the Shah-Nama shall return in the next edition of the newsletter.

ART
RELIGION &
CULTURE

The only major upheaval during this period was brought about by the invasion of Alexander of Macedon who, against all odds, emerged victorious over the Achaemenian armies. In the aftermath of Alexander's death a fragmented empire gave way to a resurgent Zoroastrian force, the Parthians. During their rule, sacred fires of the faith were established and the Zoroastrian sacred text, the Avesta, was compiled under royal patronage. The Sasanians, who succeeded the Parthians, established Zoroastrianism as the state religion and played a significant role as the great restorers of the faith. Many of the religious rites and traditions followed

Firoza Punthakey Mistree works for Zoroastrian Studies, Mumbai, and for several years has been researching the oral history of the Yazdi Zoroastrians.

Lavishly illustrated with colour & B/W photographs in a large format, with contributions from 30 scholars from around the world.

For other countries contact
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Card Holder's Signature

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PAPETI INFORMATION

HMMM... HMMM... GOOD – CALLING ALL CATERERS!

The ZAGNY board is requesting bids for catering of the Pateti function, which will be held on August 24, 2002. We encourage all interested in providing Indian food with a predominance of Parsi flavor for this 350+ person affair to contact Cyrus Hirjibehedin, by phone at 212-663-5768 or by email to cfh6@columbia.edu.

For further information and to receive the bid package which contains the requirements. Preference in the selection process will be given to ZAGNY members. **The deadline for submitting a completed bid is July 14, 2002.**

DIRECTIONS TO THE POMONA DARBE MEHR

106 POMONA ROAD, SUFFERN, NY 10901, Tel. No. 845-362-2104

FROM TAPPAN ZEE BRIDGE (going West)

After crossing the bridge continue on New York State Thruway (I- 87)
Take Exit 13N for Palisades Pkwy North
Follow Palisades Parkway directions, below.

FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE (going West)

After crossing the bridge, (YOU MUST BE ON THE UPPER LEVEL) continue onto Palisades Pkwy North
Take Exit 12
Follow Palisades Parkway directions, below.

FROM NJ TURNPIKE NORTHBOUND:

Use Exit 18 on the Turnpike, after the tolls stay right for the local lanes.
Take Exit 72 for Palisades Parkway.
Follow Palisades Parkway directions, below.

PALISADES PARKWAY – NORTH

Use Exit 12 on the Palisades Parkway Northbound.
Make a left at the end of the exit ramp
Go to the traffic light; make a left onto Route 45 South
Go straight and make right at the second light onto Pomona Road
Go straight for about a mile, you will see Minisiengo Country Club on the right, (large white building) Darbe Mehr is on the next block on your right (opposite the Middle School on the left hand side).
Park in the Middle School Parking lot and walk across to the Darbe Mehr.
The building is at the end of the driveway and is not visible from the road.

PARKING AT THE POMONA DARBE MEHR

Please remember to utilize the parking lot located across the street from the Pomona Darbe Mehr. It is for everyone's safety that we ask you to keep the cul-de-sac clear for emergency vehicles and drop-off and pick-up of guests.

We appreciate your cooperation.

*The Pateti Function will be held on August 24, 2002
at the Pomona Darbe Mehr*

PROGRAM:

5:30 P.M. REGISTRATION

6:00 P.M. JASHAN CEREMONY

7:00 P.M. COCKTAILS FOLLOWED BY DINNER AND DANCING



REGISTRATION: PATETI FUNCTION 2002

			<i>NUMBER</i>	<i>AMOUNT</i>
<i>ADULTS</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>\$25.00</i>	<i>_____</i>	<i>_____</i>
<i>NON-MEMBERS</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>\$35.00</i>	<i>_____</i>	<i>_____</i>
<i>CHILDREN 5-15 YRS</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>\$15.00</i>	<i>_____</i>	<i>_____</i>
<i>SENIOR CITIZENS</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>\$15.00</i>	<i>_____</i>	<i>_____</i>
<i>DONATIONS:</i>			<i>_____</i>	<i>_____</i>
	<i>TOTAL:</i>		<i>_____</i>	<i>_____</i>

NAME:_____

ADDRESS:_____

TEL. NO. HOME: _____ BUSINESS: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

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

*Jasmin Kotwal
12 Park Hill Terrace
Princeton Junction, NJ 08550-0102*

Reservations must be received by August 10th 7, 2001

Registration will be non-refundable

*A **SURCHARGE** will apply to at the gate registrations and calls received within 48 hours
of the function: \$15.00 per person \$25.00 per family*

2002 ZAGNY MEMBERSHIP FORM & DIRECTORY

INFORMATION

NAME: _____

Last name

First name

Spouse's name

CHILDREN: *Name* *Date of Birth (mm/yy)*

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

HOME ADDRESS:

HOME PHONE/FAX/E-MAIL

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

E-Mail:

MEMBER'S INFO.

SPOUSE'S INFO.

Originally from: _____

Company Name: _____

Profession/Title: _____

Address: _____

Business Phone: (____) ____-_____

(____) ____-_____

Business Fax: _____

Business E-mail: _____

Type of membership desired (check one) :

Associate	Regular		
[]	[]	Family membership	\$ 100
[]	[]	Individual adult membership	50
[]	[]	Senior citizens - per person	30
[]	[]	Full time student membership	25
[]	[]	Non resident membership	40
	[]	Mail me the directory (\$ 5 S&H)	5

Donation \$_____

Please allocate my donation to the following fund(s):

\$ _____

<input type="checkbox"/>	NEW Building	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	General Fund	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Scholarship	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Critical Assist.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Library	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	_____

TOTAL \$ _____

**Regular members: At least one member of the family is Zoroastrian*

**Associate Members: No member of the family is Zoroastrian*

Please **make your check payable to ZAGNY** and mail it with your check to

Jasmin Kotwal at: 12 Park Hill Terrace, Princeton Junction, NJ 08550. Phone: (609) 275-5952.

ZARATHUSHTRA'S VISION AND THE INSPIRATION OF CIVILIZATION

(continued from page 1)

By: **Nawaz Merchant**

Although I am no philosopher, I came away from the discussion with a sense of revelation. We live in a very goal oriented, driven environment, and do not always have the time to maintain each of our historical traditions. As an immigrant, that can cause a sense of confusion - a "fractured existence" as Prof. Irani so aptly put it. In his charming old-world manner Professor Irani walked us through a summary description of life in a tribal pre-Zoroastrian society and the influence of Zarathushtra revolutionary concepts - that one who takes from others is no hero, that the different "tribes" are really all one family, that one must try to achieve - the greatest good of the greatest numbers - on that society and its relevance in today's modern world. The "good path" that Zarathushtra proposed still makes sense.

Prof. Irani clarified that our religion was not intended or focused on coerced compliance but rather on awakening recognition of what is the right path - the right thing to do *in each and every situation that we face*. Prof. Irani paraphrased passages from the Avesta where Zarathushtra asked the populace to question their beliefs, as well as his own propositions. This is a tremendous advance for civilization. It takes human society forward from authoritarianism, and brings it closer towards reason and scientific curiosity. Professor Irani also gave us a perspective of the history of our religion through Archaemenian and Sassanian periods as he spoke about the roots of our priests Mobeds and Ervad's as being the ritualistic priests and the Magi, the physicians and the teachers of old.

Prof. Irani then addressed some current issues facing our community such as the Dokhmanshi issue (disposal of the deceased). He suggested that we implement the tenet of good words more actively. "Good Words" mean good communication! He called on the community to communicate with each other, without acrimony and make a decision.

Commenting on the significance of the Navjote ceremony, Professor Irani reminded us to teach children the meaning of the Kusti prayers as well as the actual ancient Avestan prayers. We will take Professor Irani's exhortations to heart - He would like stated that a child undergoing a Navjote should understand what the Navjote ceremony is about, and be able to declare "I commit myself to the religion of Zarathushtra". He has also reminded us to teach children the meaning of the Kusti prayers as well as the actual ancient Avestan prayers.

Professor Iran's lecture was a treat. His very personal "relationship" with the great philosophers Homer, Mills, Weber and the Persian philosophers Al-gazari and Abrosh made the subject come alive. How we enjoyed his anecdotes of Dr Hoffman and Albert Einstein.... "I do not think that nature is that complicated!" Thank you dear Professor Irani for a very uplifting experience.

Professor Kaikhosrov Iran's discussion on Zarathushtra's vision and the inspiration of civilization was very focused and informative. He clearly outlined the fundamental principles of our religion and explained how Zarathushtra's vision impacted the tribal civilization of those days. I came away with an understanding of the original rationale for Dakhme Saghdi custom and tradition.

By: **Vispi Kanga**

ZAGNY is most grateful to Professor Irani and to those community members that attended this discussion. We look forward to bringing you future events and topics.



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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.zagny.org

***Zoroastrian
Association of
Greater New York.***