



Issue 4 – SPECIAL CHICAGO CONGRESS ISSUE

ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW YORK

JULY 2002 NEWSLETTER

ZAGNY MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN 12TH NORTH AMERICAN Z-CONGRESS



ZAGNY President gives Chicago Congress Committee Chair the FEZANA trophy.

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The 12th North American Zoroastrian Congress commenced on July 4, 2002 with a rousing rendition of “inaugural prayers” by Ervad **Kersi Antia**. During the opening ceremonies, ZAGNY President **Homi Gandhi** presented the Chicago Congress Committee Chair, **Rashna Ghadiali**, the FEZANA Trophy. This is a token given to the local Zoroastrian association that hosts the Congress, in recognition of its hard work and dedication to the community event.

Even prior to the official commencement of the Congress, participants could avail themselves of various activities: As people arrived in the windy city, they had the option of taking bus tours, attending a concert in Grant Park and “breaking the ice” at organized youth get-togethers. The World Zarathustri Chamber of Commerce (WZCC) held a one-day conference with presentations by ZAGNY’s **Rusi Gandhi** and **Edul Davar**

ZAGNY is proud to have had many of its members actively participate in the Congress. ZAGNY’s own **Lovji Cama** moderated a workshop on religious education. The session included a sneak peek at **Tenaz Dubash’s** new documentary, *Zoroastrianism: Ancient Religion, Modern Decisions* (working title). Later in the Congress, Ms. Dubash was presented with the Paradise award in recognition of the impact of her earlier documentary, *In the Footsteps of Our Forefathers*.

An interfaith session entitled “Building Bridges – the Zarathustri Imperative” received favorable publicity in the Chicago Sun-Times and the Chicago Tribune. The session addressed the need for religious communities to communicate and cooperate to achieve a more peaceful co-existence in a world torn by religious conflict. Clergy from Zoroastrian, Islamic and Judeo-Christian religions participated

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE ZOROASTRIAN COMMUNITY

BY: HOMI GANDHI, ZAGNY PRESIDENT

If I had to summarize the 12th North American Zoroastrian Congress in one phrase, I would say it was “the most organized Congress” I have attended to date. No lines at the door before the opening/closing/award ceremonies, no “dhakka mukki”, no rushing prior to the function. The Chicago Zarathushti Community ought to be proud of that for a well organized Congress. The organization aspect permeated all aspects the Congress, from the venue to the facilities, from the participation of the experienced and the youth, from the content of the academic discussion to the entertainment.



Twenty priests from around the globe gathered to commemorate the Congress with a closing jashan.

Over 40 individuals from ZAGNY participated and I wish there had been more! There was active contribution by many of our congregation members including Lovji Cama, Tamina Davar, Edul Daver, Tenaz Dubash, Rusi Gandhi, Yasmin Ghadiali, Khorshed Jungalwala, Mitra Mehr, Ruyintan Mehta, Cyrus and Lily Mehta, Shahrokh Mehta, Farrokh Patel, Dinyar Vania, and “Aapro” Farobag Cooper, who ably led the Zoroastrian Symphony Orchestra in giving all the attendees a very lively and enjoyable evening. What a contribution! Almost one in three ZAGNY attendees had an active role. And to top it all, our past ZAGNY member, Dr. Farhang Mehr, and our current ZAGNY members, Tenaz Dubash,

were the recipients of the Lifetime Achievement and the Paradise Awards respectively. BRAVO!

On a personal note, I found the content of the sessions very interesting. I felt that more time was needed in some sessions for discussion in participation in small groups. It was very gratifying to see a very healthy and meaningful contribution by the youth in the day sessions and in the evening entertainment. It was sad that many youth and their parents could not participate in the Congress because of the clash of dates with the 8th Zarathushti Games in Los Angeles. FEZANA organizers should aim to avoid such scheduling conflicts in the future.

The Congress provided a great opportunity to meet old friends from school and college days once again after a very, very, very long time, make new friends and renew contacts with existing ones, and meet the old ZAGNY stalwarts-Daruwalas, Dasturs, and Gazdars-who are excited to visit us once again at our new Pomona Darbe Mehr. And believe it or not, I recruited two young Zarathushtis from our area to the ZAGNY membership.

But above all, it was a “family reunion” for me in a city where I lived and worked once. At that time, a small Chicago Zarathushti community met and celebrated the “Papeti” function at Rustom Kevala’s home. I had enjoyed my stay in Chicago at that time and visiting again, was a wonderful walk down memory lane. It was a most joyful event for my family to celebrate my sister, Mani Rao’s landmark (I wouldn’t tell you which!) birthday and to see my young niece, Anita Rao, singing beautifully (both at the Opening Ceremony and at the evening entertainment at the Congress).

But it was all over too soon! It was a very rewarding experience to be present at the concluding “Jashan Ceremony” at the Chicago Darbe Mehr. I was awed to be sitting at the ceremony conducted by TWENTY priests, FIFTEEN from Chicago itself. The host community can enjoy the celebration and joy of a successful Congress only after everything has been done. THE CHICAGO ZARATHUSTI COMMUNITY DESERVES KUDOS FOR A JOB WELL DONE!

OPINION – MAKE NORTH AMERICAN ZARATHUSHTI CONGRESSES AFFORDABLE!

BY: SHAHROKH MEHTA

Congresses provide unique opportunities for Zarathushti families to come together in an environment of learning, community building and renewal. But due to the high cost of attending such events, many Zarathushti families are unable to make avail of this opportunity.

Hosting a Congress should not be about making profits, no matter what noble causes the profits are applied towards. Community building, greater community participation and community involvement should be the fundamental reason for having a Congress.

FEZANA is charged with enforcing the “Guidelines for Hosting a Zoroastrian Congress”, as approved at the FEZANA, AGM in July 1996. The host associations of the last three North American Congresses have essentially ignored many of the approved guidelines. However, since FEZANA shares in the profits, it would seem that it has an interest in perpetuating the profit-oriented model, at the expense of increased community participation.

North America has approximately 25,000 Zarathushtis. However, only 500-700 (between 2% and 3%) community members attend a typical NA Congress. Let's aim to increase the Congress participation to 5% or even 10%. Those who are community activists and regulars will come irrespective of costs. We should inspire the attendance of those who have never attended a Congress, due to high costs and would like to attend. In this way, the average Zarathushtis, particularly, youth on tight budgets, can also share in advancing the community.

Here are a few recommendations for reducing costs and encouraging greater community participation:

1. Entrance to the Congress for those who want to come and listen to the lectures should be made free or a token of \$5 charged for keeping track of registrations. Seniors should be offered a discount.
2. Subsidized rates should be negotiated with more affordable hotels and motels to offer participants a variety of accommodations within commutable distances. Chartered bus service should be offered.

3. All meals should be the responsibility of the participants; with fixed price menus and advance reservation requirements or a list of food vendors nearby should be provided. Events like banquets, sightseeing, and other special events should be provided on a cost basis.
4. Congresses should be a “North American Zarathushti Community Event” rather than the responsibility of a single local association. A special Congress Committee consisting of Zarathushtis with high interest levels and specialized skill sets from various associations and FEZANA Executives should be sought in staging the event.
5. Associations across North America should have numerous and diverse fundraising activities both prior to and during the Congress to raise money for the Congress itself. In addition, advertising income, donations, exhibit space, etc., need to be pursued aggressively in order to raise enough money for the incidental expenses directly related to the budgetary needs of the Congress.
6. More cost-effective locations (e.g. a campus hall with dormitory facilities), in the open and quiet outskirts of a city are alternatives to high priced hotels that need to be considered as future locations for the Congress.
7. Most importantly, the program should be well balanced, informative and inspire attendance. Shortening the Congress to provide quality rather than quantity of programs should be considered.

We have almost 2 years till the next Congress in San Francisco. Let that Congress not follow the profitability model of Valley Forge, Rye, Houston, and now possibly Chicago at the expense of ignoring 97%+ of the community. If FEZANA cannot enforce what the Associations agreed to, then FEZANA should disassociate itself and let the Congress host call it by its own name – for example, The San Francisco Zoroastrian Congress or for that matter by any other name without the words, North American.

ZWIN HELPS TO MAKE DREAMS COME TRUE

BY: DR. ZAREEN KARANI AAROZ

Dr. AaroZ is a founder of the Zoroastrian Women International Network, a web based group of Zoroastrian women from around the world, who have pledged to assist other Z women in different ways. To learn more about ZWIN, please visit www.zwin3.net.

As reported at its Congress session, the Zoroastrian Women's International Network (ZWIN) helps Zarathushti women and families world-wide re-connect as a community. Earlier in the year, one ZWIN member, Hovi Shroff, offered to sponsor and host a deserving Zarathushti girl from India for 3-4 weeks in her home in July 2003, and then sponsor her attendance at the Youth Congress in Toronto as well. Hovi's idea received widespread support and resulted in the creation of ZWIN's Sponsor a Youth Program.



ZAGNY's Tenaz Dubash, who is also a ZWIN member, received the Paradise Award.

The Program team includes such community leaders as Aban Rustomji, Dr. Dolly Dastoor, Toxy Cowasjee, Bella Tata, and ZAGNY's own Yasmin Ghadiali. As envisioned, the Program is designed to select deserving Zarathushti children from India, finance their travel to North America, host them in our communities and sponsor them for a trip to Toronto for the Youth Congress in July 2003. Although there are plans to introduce the Program in Iran, ZWIN is unable to do so at the present time, due to difficulties in obtaining visas for these children.

Offers to assist with the Program are pouring in from all corners of North America. Learning of the Program and its objective never fails to inspire an audience. Thus, the spontaneous reaction of Mr. Homavazir of Toronoto who said, "My family will open our home to as many youth as we can during the Congress". At the ZWIN breakfast in Chicago, Yasmin Ghadiali, Goolu Austin, Anita Tamboli, Yasmin Pavri, Homi Gandhi and others pledged support to the Program as well.

ZWIN welcomes individuals and associations that could assist in even a small way. All such contributions will be tax-exempt.

ZWIN is requesting Zarathushti associations and families in North America to consider:

- ⊕ Sponsoring or co-sponsoring a deserving young girl with potential from India or Pakistan. (Approximately \$2,500-\$3,000 per person).
- ⊕ Hosting a youth in their community for 3 weeks (one family or three can share).
- ⊕ Working with the 2003 Youth Congress organizers and others to help sponsor these girls to attend the Youth Congress in Toronto next July.

Please contact Dr. Zareen Karani Araoz at zareen@managingcultures.com, tel: 781-721-7546 with offers and ideas. We appreciate having some contribution or hospitality from each Zarathushti community in North America. We were all able to come to the US, many facing several challenges. Let us try and help someone else do the same.

A YOUNG ZARATHUSTI REFLECTS ON HIS EXPERIENCES IN CHICAGO

BY: KAIZAD CAMA



ZAGNY's
Kaizad Cama

The 12th North American Zoroastrian Congress was a success on many levels. On a personal note, but one that I'm sure everyone can relate to, it was great seeing old friends who live all over North America. Being able to hang out

Zoroastrianism in our youth. So far, no one seems to know how to do it, but it really is necessary that

with them for 4 days makes for a most enjoyable weekend. Chicago opted for less programming than Houston, which gave us (especially the youth) plenty of time to see a bit of the city, chat with friends, or sleep in after long nights. On the other hand, having paid a lot of money to attend the Congress, I would have preferred a fuller schedule.

The youth sessions, which were attended by many parents, were the best part of the program. It was encouraging to see such an open dialogue between the generations (in fact, that clichéd phrase was one of the stated goals of this Congress). However, I have the sneaking suspicion that the open-mindedness shown by the parents in attendance was not exactly representative of their generation. It's not that the parents who spoke were not genuine, but that the parents who are more set in their dogmatic ways did not think they would benefit from such a session. As often seems to be the case with these Congresses, I got the feeling we were preaching to the choir; it is usually the more passionate or curious Zoroastrians who attend the Congresses, and it is usually the ones who think they know it all who attend the sessions, instead of the ones with open ears and minds.

I brought back a few key points from this Congress. The first, pertaining to "inter-generational dialogue," was the importance of conducting that dialogue with reason, restraint, and respect; the first two qualities were pointed out by Prof. Mehraban Khodavandi during a plenary session, and "respect" was sardonically added by my dad sitting next to me. The second point was the idea of separate identities: the political, cultural, and religious, as enumerated by Dr. Farangh Mehr. This idea was especially relevant to distinguishing our efforts to preserve our religion (Zoroastrian) from those to preserve our culture (Parsi or Iranian). Third, a discussion of religious education during one of the youth sessions reminded me of the importance of instilling curiosity about

we do a better job of it if we want to improve the effectiveness of our teaching. It is one thing to discuss these topics at Congresses every two years and another to act on them in the interim. I hope the ideas that were discussed have inspired us enough to take them back to our home associations and make things happen.



ZAGNY's, Tamina Daver, spoke at the youth sessions and moderated the Story-walas reading session (seen here with Sohrab Homi Fracis, author of *Ticket to Minto*.

The final point was a bit of an epiphany for me. Until this Congress, I really thought the community needed to decide on certain questions, perhaps by making a governing body that would make rules that the rest of the community would have to abide by. Various speakers and discussions at this Congress changed my mind on this matter, so I now think it is more important that the community never decide on anything. We should keep discussing our issues so that individuals can use their Good Minds to judge what is right, since blind adherence to anything is very unbecoming of a Zoroastrian.

Once again, four days never seem to be enough time to catch up with my Zoroastrian friends, make new ones, or learn to appreciate my religion more. Similarly, a few paragraphs are never enough to write about it, but I'm sure others will pick up where I leave off. I know I echo many others in thanking Chicago for hosting this Congress, and I'll certainly be looking forward to the next ones in Toronto and California.

*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

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

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, 2002.

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 and \$25.00 per family.

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 Parkway 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 on the Palisades Parkway North.

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 North.

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.

BONE MARROW DONOR DRIVE FUND RAISING

BY: YASMIN GHADIALI



At the 11th North American Zoroastrian Congress, the community held a drive for one Zoroastrian who needed a bone marrow transfusion to fight cancer. By the 12th Congress in Chicago we had three such patients in need. Sadly, on July 7th 2002 one of them, Ardeshir, lost his battle of life. We have to work harder to get as many Zoroastrians registered for the program. There is no better gift one can give to anyone than the GIFT OF LIFE.

ZWIN reported the following on this important initiative at the Congress:

FINDING A MATCH:

- ⊕ Chances of finding a match are 1 in 15,000/20,000.
- ⊕ One is more likely to find a match within his or her own ethnic group than from the general population.
- ⊕ Since there are 5/6 million Caucasians but only a few minorities in the North American Bone Marrow Registry, the US government pays for testing through certain registered organizations. We, Zoroastrians, get help from SAMAR – South Asian Marrow Association of Recruiters. Caucasians have to pay \$100 to get tested.

WHO CAN DONATE?

- ⊕ Anyone between the ages of 18 and 60 years (between 18 and 50/55 in Canada) who is in good health

THE IMPORTANCE OF FINANCES:

Recently it was reported that a CEO of a financial firm found out that his sister needed a bone marrow transplant to save her life. Since she did not find a match from the National Registry, he donated a huge amount of money and within a short period got 64,000 people tested all over the country. She did not find a match but 12 other patients got the GIFT OF LIFE.

THE REALITY FOR OUR COMMUNITY:

Since numbers are of importance and there are only 18,000/20,000 Zoroastrians in North America it is imperative that we get Zoroastrians residing in other parts of the world tested and registered. In India, thanks to the efforts of Dr. Rafiyah Khan of SAMAR the cost of each test has now been reduced to Rs. 600/-. ZWIN is spearheading an initiative to collect money to sponsor Zoroastrians in India for such registrations. With the help of the WZO, SAMAR and other organizations, ZWIN hopes to organize drives in the colonies and baugs of Mumbai for this important cause. Although such drives have been conducted in the past, the cost of the test and educating the public remain main obstacles to increased participation by our Indian brethrens.

Please help us save lives.

Send in your checks payable to ZAGNY- Critical Assistance Fund and mail to Yasmin & Jamshed Ghadiali, 2686 Belcher St., Baldwin, N.Y. 11510.

If anyone wishes to hold a drive anywhere in the USA or should you need further information, please call 516-378-4516.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE TWELFTH NORTH AMERICAN CONGRESS IN CHICAGO

BY: MAGDALENA
RUSTOMJI

In your City, Carl Sandburg,
Zarathushtis gather
transplanted or born
immigrants, generations X, Y, all Z's
in the land of your laughing corn
and your proud, Aztec Mask,
wanting to make connections,
wanting to draw a larger circle

We see traditions of the past,
reflected in the present
with wisdom
advising
consoling
empowering
teaching
meditating
chanting

So also, we remove
walls of fearful obstacles
and in their place,
we build a path
of righteous order
of support and strength,
a family of humanity

We set the foundation
for a communal home
with architecture
of Gathic values,
the Good Mind
the Good Word
the Good Deed,
the Way of ASHA

With the red radiant fire
from our prayer altar
lighting our way,
guiding our generation X, Y, Z's,
on the road to unearthing
a view of the new world
on the road to discovering
our ancient way of life

We see the vibrant
faces of the future
transcending all times,
riding the gentle and stormy winds
of our world soul
on sun filled clouds
in our new times

Empowered by
thousands of years
of collective unconscious,
a potential to tear down,
or to build up,
stoic
accepting
celebrating
dreaming
thinking
learning
evolving
creating

In the circle
of the present,
where past and future meet,
In the very cradle,
where our children cry out,
cover us with your warmth,
and tell us your stories

This is where it all begins,
or it all ends,
the choice is ours,
to usher in frasho kereti,
renewal and progression
of the earth

Our future thus
begins each day,
in our enlightened mind
progressing
innovating
creating

The ties that bind
Zarathushtis
are wool strands of
righteousness,
binding and unbinding
endlessly
over the garments of eternal
souls

The sun is rising now,
the fire is kindled,
the prayer chanted,
And now, a new day begins



The Congress provided a "marketplace" for participants to peruse between sessions.



SUMMER CAMP 2002

Zoroastrian Association of Northern California

- ❖ **When:** Wednesday, August 21st through Sunday, August 25th, 2002
- ❖ **Where:** Yosemite Bug Campsite (www.YosemiteBug.com)
- ❖ **Ages:** 14 through 35 years old
- ❖ **Price:** \$70 (*US Dollars*)/\$100 (*Canadian Dollars*)
- ❖ Transportation to and from campsite, lodging, most meals, and Pateti function ALL included
- ❖ Must bring: towels and any personal items (bedding and sheets are included)
- ❖ There are **ONLY 40 spaces** which will be allocated on a first come, first serve basis; so please register early to avoid disappointment.
- ❖ Will be departing from San Jose Airport on Wednesday, August 21st at 2pm
- ❖ All flights must arrive on or before 1:00pm, on Wednesday, into San Jose Airport
- ❖ Come rekindle old friendships, make new ones, and have a good time!
- ❖ Enjoy the New Year (Pateti) with the Northern Californians at the San Jose Darbe-Meher.

Tuesday, August 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊕ If you arrive on Tuesday, host families will be available for overnight stay. ⊕ Please indicate clearly, in the registration form, your flight number and time of arrival.
Wednesday, August 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊕ Leave San Jose Airport by bus for Campsite @ 2pm ⊕ Arrive at Yosemite Bug Campsite by 7:00pm ⊕ Dinner provided ⊕ Evening get together, ice breaker, etc...
Thursday, August 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊕ Breakfast provided ⊕ Leave camp by bus for Yosemite Park ⊕ Box lunch provided ⊕ Return to campsite by evening ⊕ Dinner provided at campsite ⊕ Evening activities
Friday, August 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊕ Breakfast provided ⊕ Leave camp for tour of Merced Village ⊕ Lunch at Merced Village on your own ⊕ Return to campsite by evening ⊕ Dinner provided at campsite ⊕ Evening activities
Saturday, August 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊕ Breakfast provided ⊕ Leave camp at 10:00 am for San Jose Darbe Mehr ⊕ Lunch provided at Darbe-Mehr / Community Center ⊕ Tour of San Francisco/San Jose City ⊕ Evening Pateti Function at Darbe-Mehr / Community Center (Dinner provided) ⊕ Stay overnight at Darbe-Mehr / Community Center
Sunday, August 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊕ Depart for San Jose Airport from Darbe Mehr / Community Center (Please arrange for return flights after 10am)

ZYNA Summer Camp
Registration Form.

Yosemite National Park
from 08.21.02 thru
08.25.02



Cost: \$70 USD
\$100 CND

Includes lodging, food,
transportation to and
from campsite and
Papeti function.

Please send registration forms and checks (made out to ZYNA) to:
Morvarid Behziz, 1646 Turnpost Lane, Hacienda Heights CA, 91745 mbehziz@hotmail.com

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Please include a photocopy of some form of picture ID.

Address:	
Phone Number:	

ARRIVING FLIGHTS:

Transportation from the airport is ONLY provided IF arriving at San Jose Airport on Wednesday, August 21st BEFORE 1:00 PM

❖ **If arriving on Tuesday August 20th, will you need accommodations? _____**

Arrival information:

Flight Number:	
Airline:	
Time of Arrival:	

DEPARTING FLIGHTS:

Transportation to the airport is ONLY provided IF departing from San Jose Airport on Sunday, August 25th AFTER 10:00 AM

Departure information:

Flight Number:	
Airline:	
Time of Departure:	

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION:

Address:	
Phone Number:	
Email:	
Relation:	

I fully understand that ZYNA, FEZANA, the Zoroastrian Association of Northern California (ZNAC), and the trustees of the San Jose Darbe Meher are NOT RESPONSIBLE for any lost or stolen personal property and/or personal injuries, and any liability ensuing from the same.

I fully understand and acknowledge that I will be responsible for any damage or loss to property as a result of my actions.

Signature _____ Date _____

* If the registrant is under 21 years of age, the co-signature of a parent/guardian is required.

Signature _____ Date _____

PROVIDING SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT

BY: VEHISHTA KAIKOBAD

At the Congress, Ms. Kaikobad of Houston spoke regarding the need to nurture the spiritual development of a child. Ms. Kaihobad has graciously permitted the newsletter to print her comments on how parents and teachers can nurture the child's spirit on a daily basis.

Spiritual nourishment cannot be restricted to a set of techniques or routines. It has to flow from the inner-self. There are several ways in which it may be provided to children:

1. Go back to your religious/cultural roots.

Draw on your own childhood experiences to inculcate family and community pride.

2. Practice our faith.

Make the daily and special rituals enjoyable experiences to strengthen their sense of belonging.

3. Set up a quiet corner.

In our desire to do for the children we forget they just need to be. Allow them to ponder... this feeds their soul and rejuvenates the mind. It aids in the development of inner peace and calmness, which lends beauty to a child's fledgling spirit and predisposes the soul for certain inner experiences.



Ms. Kaikobad spoke of the importance of linking events such as the jashan with events like thanksgiving which children can relate to more easily.

4. Share reflective time

Take time from your routine, to sit and share incidences, stories, etc., on a personal basis. Use poetry and inspirational books of quotations as resource. A simple walk and enjoying nature's beauty can be a bonding experience. Encourage nature study, seed planting.

5. Enable the child to relate to things concretely.

Taking care of pets enhances respect for all of God's creations. A good way to encourage this is by taking field trips; or example, to the zoo. This can be extended to learning about the Amesha Spentas and their roles.

6. Focus on cosmic education.

Through our simple Kushti prayers and meanings and illustrations; present the idea of the universe to the young child at his level of understanding.

7. Send them to Sunday schools.

The home, school, and family, form the eternal triangle and provide the framework for the child's spirituality to blossom. Parents must be committed to this cause and stay involved. Teachers must stay dedicated and impart their love for religion through positive energy and consistency in their convictions.

8. Teach religious concepts through current and important events.

For example: teaching about peace through United Nations day; Jashan as related to Thanksgiving; the life of Jesus Christ during Christmas time; comparative study of different religions and myths.

9. Teach religious concepts through puppet shows and dramas.

For example, illustrating stories from our past, such as the kis-e-sanjan, etc, can spark interest and learning.

Nurturing the spirit of the child fills us with hope. "Hope", Sofia Cavalletti comments, "is the dynamism that urges us to view the reality in which we are immersed in a positive manner. When we observe this view, we do not see regression in the universe; we see life constantly moving towards an ever-higher degree of complexity." Same is the case with our beautiful and ancient religion. May its spiritual essence envelop us to stand together as Zoroastrians for millenniums to come.

ZAGNY MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN 12TH NORTH AMERICAN Z-CONGRESS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The Zoroastrian Women's International Network (ZWIN) led by **Zareen Karani Aaroz** engaged in a community building exercise, to illustrate the efficacy of ZWIN's primary goal and introduced the Youth Exchange Program. (details on page 4). ZAGNY's **Yasmin Ghadiali** spoke regarding the important Bone Marrow Registry Initiative. (details on page 8)

Other notable sessions included a talk-show format discussion of gender roles, co-chaired by ZAGNY's **Khorshed Jungalwala**, several sessions dedicated to health issues facing the community and a number of youth oriented discussions. ZAGNY's **Mitra Mehr** and **Tamina Davar** spoke at the youth sessions. Parents attended the youth sessions in large numbers to hear what the next generation had to say and to engage in a meaningful dialogue. Ms. Davar also organized a "Story-walas" workshop where notable Zarathushti authors read from their recent works and answered questions from the audience.



Maestro Farobag Homi Cooper, Baritone Dinyar Vania and Soprano Anita Parakh, after their performance with the ZSO.

For entertainment, the Congress provided a talent show, discos, a Gujarati natak, a game show night and a moonlight cruise. None was as riveting as the performance of the Zoroastrian Symphony Orchestra (ZSO), which played superbly under the direction of



Cyrus and Lily Mehta played as part of the ZSO.

Maestro **Farobag Homi Cooper**. The highlight of the evening was an operatic performance of Georges Bizet's *Chanson du toreador*, by ZAGNY's own Baritone **Dinyar Vania** with Australian Soprano **Anita Parakh**. Ms. Parakh also accompanied the ZSO during the world premier of **Parizad Irani's** composition for voice and orchestra, Zar. In addition, the program featured a violin solo of Tommaso Albinoni's *Adagio in g minor* by ZAGNY's **Cyrus Mehta**. Mr. Mehta's wife, **Lily**, also played as part of the ZSO. The performance was digitally recorded and will be available on CD shortly.

Throughout the Congress, participants had the ability to peruse books for sale, purchase garas, experience Rieke treatments and learn of several other philanthropic initiatives in the "marketplace". During the closing ceremonies, **Homi Gandhi** was asked to speak to the entire audience regarding ZAGNY's Good Life Emblem Program.

Although the Congress officially closed with those ceremonies, many pilgrims gathered for a jashan ceremony on the following day at the Chicago Darbe Mehr – the only Darbe Mehr in North America to be built from the ground up. The bright and airy congregation hall echoed the voices of 20 priests gathered from across the world to celebrate the perpetuation of our religion in North America.

BY: MITRA MEHR

ZAGNY's Mitra Mehr spoke at a youth session about the impact of migration to North America on our way of life. Ms. Mehr has graciously permitted us to reproduce her speech below.

As many of us who immigrated to North America from Iran and India are aware, immigration is not an easy experience. It is a long and difficult journey--learning a new language, new settings, a new culture, making friends and in some instances finding work. When we become immigrants, we are transformed into the "other". For the first time, we are the "foreigners", who must realize that our perspective and our way of life is not the norm. Long held assumptions must be recognized and examined. We are forced to look at ourselves from the outside and try to sum up our way of life to an audience who often has little knowledge of what we have long taken for granted.

Zoroastrians who have left Iran and India, as part of the second migration, have faced many of these issues--among them questions of spiritual identity. For those of us living in Iran and India, simply saying that we were "Zartushti" or Parsee was sufficient; we were recognized, sometimes subject to stereotypes or discrimination of one sort or another, but we were rarely asked to explain our spiritual beliefs to others. The second migration has changed that. As many of us know first hand, Zoroastrians living abroad are often asked to describe their religion to people who have never heard of it.

To describe our religion to others, we need to know our religion -- both its philosophy and its rituals. This means that we have to move beyond describing our religion as just "good thoughts, good words and good deeds." As beautiful as those words are they don't capture the richness of our ideology.

What do we believe in? We believe that people are inherently good, that we are sparked with God-like qualities, that is that we are made in the moral image of Ahura Mazda. We have the potential to

be wise, just, compassionate, creative, strong and productive. We are born with a Good mind (an ability to think (rationally), a conscience and insight or intuition -- tools that enable us to discern right from wrong. By choosing wisely, being just, compassionate and strong we can become co-workers and friends of Ahura Mazda, working to "renovate" the world around us. We believe in "freedom of choice" in contrast to pre-destination and advocate tolerance for differing views, without which freedom of choice would be meaningless. We believe that there is law of consequences, a law of justice and truth called Asha that governs the world. Under this law, if we choose right we shall benefit and if we don't we shall suffer. We all have the potential to choose right over wrong, and to live productive and fulfilling lives.

The fact that the Zoroastrian religion does not prescribe specific rules of conduct has made it easier for us to adapt to our new homes. We don't have specific rules regarding our clothing or appearance and for the most part have limited dietary restrictions; instead, moderation, examined with wisdom as our guide, is recommended as a virtue. This has made our integration into Western society easier. The flip side of this, however, is that because there are no specific rules of conduct, it is in some ways easier for us to lose our religious identity altogether. That is, unless we learn the doctrine of Zoroastrianism, we will be Zoroastrians by name only.

Zoroastrians now living in diaspora face another issue: we have had to learn to practice our religion outside the context of our communities. The Zoroastrians who left Iran for India, hundreds of years ago, did so as a group. They settled in India next to their families and their Zoroastrian neighbors, all of whom shared their faith, their language and their customs. In contrast Zoroastrians who have been part of the second migration are now scattered around North America and the world; living sometimes

SPIRITUALITY AND THE SECOND MIGRATION

as part of a Zoroastrian community, and often on their own. We don't always have a place to congregate, religious classes, or easy access to scholars or mobeds. We don't always get the benefit of celebrating religious holidays or practicing our religious rituals with friends and family. Without a community, it is more difficult for us to pass on our customs, languages and way of life to the future generation. As some of us know first-hand, children (and sometimes adults) don't like to stand out or be different, and they are thus less receptive to traditions and a way of life, not practiced by those around them.

Realizing that we are not part of a community, we can create one by making a commitment to remove the challenges created by time and distance. We can participate in conferences and organize gatherings with our Zoroastrian friends.

We can travel and visit our communities in India and Iran. We can write books that teach the children of our community about our faith and create documentaries, which educate us about our religious heritage or highlight issues currently facing our community. These are but a few examples; the possibilities are encouraging, limited simply by our imagination.

The second migration can have two different consequences for us: we can either lose our spiritual identity or gain a stronger sense of it. I hope and have faith that the latter will be the case.



In the top row, going from left to right, award winners:
Bella Tata, Dinshaw Joshi (Award Committee Chair), Dr. Farhang Meher, Tinaz Dubash, Firdosh Bhatena.
In the bottom row going from left to right, award winners: Bapsi Sidhwa, Kayomarzd Mehta, Sherezade Mehta

WORLD ZARATHUSHTI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AGM-2002 & CONFERENCE

The World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce held its AGM and Conference in conjunction with the Chicago Congress. Rusi Gandhi, President of the WZCC's New York Chapter reports on these events. To learn about the organization or to become a member, please visit www.wzcc.net.

AGM - 2002

It was reported at the AGM that WZCC Chapters have been established all over the world. The Chamber has decided that the first 250 members paying their dues for 3 consecutive years will be recognized as 'Founder Members' of WZCC. An Honorary Membership was also bestowed on stalwart Zarathushtis Alyar Dabestani, Minoo Shroff and Nadir Godrej. A key objective for the Chamber, as identified at the meeting, is to create 'Zarathushti-LP', a for-profit entity which will raise capital and invest in new entrepreneurial businesses.

BUSINESS CONFERENCE

The WZCC also sponsored a one-day Business Conference prior to the official start of the Congress. Homi Patel, CEO of Hartmax Corporation delivered the key note address. About 100 people, many of them young professionals, attended the event. New York's Edul Daver, Rusi Gandhi, Ruyintan Mehta, Farokh Patel and Framroze Patel made presentations and led discussions on topics such as "Entrepreneurship", "Service to Benefit Zarathushtis and Associations", "Evaluation of Business Opportunities", and "Zarathushti Businesses- a Power House". The Conference included presentations on several other topics as well.

THE NEW YORK CHAPTER OF THE WZCC

The WZCC's NY Chapter holds regular meetings to discuss issues of relevance to the Zarathushti business community in the area. You do not have to be active in Business or a WZCC member to attend. Anyone interested in promoting and supporting Zarathushti businesses is welcome.

Their next meeting will be at Namaskar Restaurant, Rt. 4 West in Paramus, New Jersey at 1:00 pm on **SEPTEMBER 15, 2002**. This will be an interesting meeting for EVERYONE interested in Energizing the Zarathushti Entrepreneurial Spirit.

- ❖ Mrs. Sherry Amici, Vice President of First Morris Bank & Trust will make a presentation on "Commercial Loans for Investment Properties."
- ❖ Mr. Edul Daver will explain the concept of the 'Zarathushti LP'

Lunch will be served and the cost is \$15. Please make checks payable to WZCC and send to Rusi Gandhi, 56 Ridge Drive, Montville, NJ 07045 by **August 22, 2002**, and confirm your attendance by contacting one of the following on or before by **August 21, 2002**: Rusi Gandhi (973-263-9619); Arnaz Maneckshana (201-393-7102); Noshir Dutia (973-328-2881) or Edul Daver (732-469-1866).

DMZT NEWS - AGM AND ELECTIONS

DMZT held its Annual General Meeting and elections on May 5, 2002 at the Darbe Mehr Hall at Pomona, NY. The meeting came to order at 12:30 PM. The Board of Trustees comprising of Noshir Baria, Cyrus Cama, Viraf Commissariat, Yasmin Ghadiali, Noshir Langrana and Kiomars Sorooshyari were present at the meeting and shared the stage with the two candidates Ardeshir Kiamanesh and Gev Nentin.

Noshir Dutia, Eruch Munshi and Iraj Yektashenas constituted an independent Election Committee that would hold the election including counting votes and declaring the results.

The Chairperson, Viraf Commissariat, welcomed the congregation and gave them a summary of the events and highlights of the preceding year. Iraj Yektashenas, the spokesman for the Election Committee, addressed the congregation, giving them a synopsis of the voting procedure and introducing the candidates. The Chairperson then requested the two candidates, Ardeshir Kiamanesh and Gev Nentin, to introduce themselves to the congregation and outline the aspirations and goals they intend to pursue during their tenure for the good of the DMZT.

DMZT NEWS – AGM and ELECT

and members were encouraged to cast their ballots. The secretary's report for the year was delivered next by Noshir Baria and this was followed by the annual financial report by Treasurer, Yasmin Ghadiali. A question was on an item in the financial report

raised from the congregation, by Shirin Kiamanesh that referred to the money transferred by ZAGNY from its New Building Fund to DMZT as contributed by ZAGNY only.

The error was acknowledged and the Treasurer committed to the congregation that the money transferred would not be shown as being from ZAGNY only (corrected statements are attached). The accounts were approved and accepted by the congregation with the above amendment and a motion to that effect was carried forward by a majority vote.

The Chairperson then proceeded to thank the two outgoing Trustees, Cyrus Cama and Kiomars Sorooshyari for their contributions and dedicated service to the Zoroastrian community during their tenure Trustees and a small token of appreciation was presented to each of them.

The time period for returning the ballot papers was then announced and at the end of this period the ballots were declared closed and the vote count commenced.

The last item on the agenda was a question and answer session that was open to the congregation. A question was presented on the status of the sale of the New Rochelle Darbe Mehr. Trustees reported that a license agreement entered into by DMZT with Mount Tom's School at the time of purchase, which allows the school the use of our grounds for "playing ball" during the summer was raising concerns with the buyers and they needed some time to work this out with the school. They were in negotiation with the school for an amicable settlement.

Another question was posed on the rental of Darbe Mehr to non-members as a means of generating some income. The condition for such a rental was that the renter would be required to provide his own coverage, as our insurance does not cover third-parties. Since this insurance is fairly expensive it makes the rental unattractive.

The meeting was declared closed after a vote of thanks to the congregation at conclusion of this session at 2:20 PM.

As there were only two candidates standing for the position of two Trustees both candidates were

elected unopposed.

At the completion of the vote count the election committee together, formally announced the results of the election, which is as follows:

Mr. Ardeshir Kiamanesh 175 votes

Mr. Gev Nentin 170 votes

ELECTION OF DMZT OFFICERS 2002-2003:

At the inaugural meeting for the year 2002-2003 held in June 2002, the Board of Trustees of the DMZT unanimously voted for the re-election of the officers who served during the previous year.

The officer bearers for the term June 2002 to May 2003 are as follows:

Chairperson:	Viraf Commissariat
Secretary:	Noshir Baria
Treasurer:	Yasmin Ghadiali

	Year	2001
	\$	\$
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash In Bank	4,004	
Investment: New Building Fund	103,585	
Money Market A/C: 1113-4593		
Total Current Assets		107,589
Property & Equipment		
Real Estate: New Rochelle		
Original Cost	225,000	
Less, Depreciation*	182,500	
Net New Rochelle Property	42,500	
Real Estate: Pomona		
Original Cost	1,200,000	
Less, Depreciation**	23,077	
Net Pomona Property	1,176,923	
Total Property & Equipment		1,219,423
Total Assets		1,327,012

DMZT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – INCOME STATEMENT

Line #			Year Ended	Dec 2001	Year Ended	Dec 2000
1	Income:		\$	\$	\$	\$
2	Contributions:					
3	Contribution from ZAGNY		25,000		13,000	
4	Contributions From IZA		4,800		2,600	
5	Contribution from New Building Fund for Property Insurance		4,000		0	
6	Contribution from New Building Fund for Pomona Closing Costs		10,000		0	
7	Others				101	
8	Total Contributions		39,000	43,800	13,101	15,701
9						
10	Other Income					
11	Rental		8,215		1,730	
12	Others		388			
13	Interest Income		159		700	
14	Total Other Income			8,762		2,430
15						
16	Total Income			52,562		18,131
17	Expenditures					
18	Property Related					
19	Insurance		13,023		4,154	
20	Cleaning & Landscaping		9,725		3,925	
21	City Sewer Tax		1,111		1,717	
22	Sanitation		2,171		265	
23	Legal Expenses		781			
24	Repairs & Maintenance Expenses		4,991		2,107	
25				31,801		12,168
26	General & Administrative Expenses					
27	Exterminating Service		240			
28	Janitorial Supplies		2,459		1,214	
29	Telephone		1,283		733	
30	Utilities: Gas, Electricity & Water	6,552				
31	Utilities: Heating Oil	2,541				
32	Total: Utilities		9,093		6,388	
33	Expenses Reimbursed: New Building Fund		4,519			
34	Rental Expenses		618			
35	Miscellaneous Expenses		365		345	
36	Total General & Admin Expenses			18,576		8,680
37	Total Expenditures: Admin & General			50,377		20,848
38						
39	Excess of Cash Expenditure Over Income			(2,185)		2,717
40						
41	Less, Depreciation					
42	New Rochelle Property		7,500		7,500	
43	Pomona Property		23,577			
44	Total Depreciation			31,077		7,500
45						
46	Total Excess of Expenditure Over Income			28,892		10,217

DMZT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – FINANCIAL NOTES

<i>Principles of Accounting:</i>		The Darbe Mehr Zoroastrian Temple (DMZT) follows the cash basis of accounting. This means that the income is recognized when money is received, and expenses are recorded when money is disbursed.
<i>Reporting on Comparative Basis:</i>		The Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended December 31, 2000 is reported for comparative purpose only. The Balance Sheet for the said period was not available.
<i>Contribution From ZAGNY & IZA.</i>		In addition to the required contribution from Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York, Inc (ZAGNY) and Iranian Zoroastrian Association (IZA) of \$25,000 and \$4,000 respectively, the New Building Fund provided additional contribution of \$14,000 for Pomona property. Refer lines 5 and 6 of Income Statement.
<i>Rental Income:</i>		The Rental Income includes an amount of \$7,515 received from the resident caretaker. The balance of \$700 includes the rental for the use of the hall for the private functions.
<i>Interest Income:</i>		This amount includes interest income from the money market investment.
<i>Cleaning & Landscaping:</i>		This includes an amount of \$7,500 paid to resident caretaker for the service provided.
<i>Expenses Reimbursed to ZAGNY:</i>		As mentioned earlier, the New Building Fund provided \$10,000 towards the closing cost of Pomona property. The actual closing costs were \$5,481. The balance of \$4,519 was paid back to the Fund. (Refer line 33 of Income Statement).
<i>Depreciation:</i>		<p>The Trustees believe that Depreciation for both the properties should be brought within the purview of the accounts; hence the acquisition cost and depreciation have been retroactively reflected in these financial statements.</p> <p>The New Rochelle property was acquired during the last quarter of 1977. For the Real Estate placed in service prior to 01/10/81 the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) allows the property to be depreciated using Straight Line Method over its useful life which has been estimated as thirty (30) years.</p> <p>For non-residential properties placed in service after 05/12/1993 the IRC allows the property to be depreciated over 39 years using the Straight Line method. This refers to Pomona property. Refer Column B of Balance Sheet for further information relative to depreciation methods, the useful life etc.</p>
<i>Additions to Fund Balance:</i>		<p>During the current year DMZT received two major assets, from IZA/ZAGNY Fund Raising Committee, which increases the Fund Balance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pomona Property valued, <i>at cost</i> \$1,200,000. • The Money Market investment of \$103,585 valued at <i>market price</i>. <p>Refer to line 7 of the Balance Sheet.</p>



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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

August 2002	September 2002
11 ZAGNY Family Picnic	7 IZA Persian Language Classes
16 -20 Mukdad Prayers	8 ZAGNY Religious Class
24 Papeti Function (information enclosed)	15 WZCC's NY Chapter meeting (information enclosed)

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors. The ZAGNY Board and the Newsletter Committee do not endorse or agree with all the views expressed herein. The mission of the ZAGNY newsletter is simply to allow the community to engage in meaningful dialogue regarding important issues. To that end, if you wish to respond to any articles in this newsletter, please write to us at zagny_secretary@lycos.com

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We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.zagny.org

**Zoroastrian
Association of
Greater New York.**