



ISSUE 5

ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW YORK

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Co-Chairs Newsletter Committee: Arnavaz F. Patel; Diana M. Dinshaw
Editor: Shazneen Rabadi Gandhi

ZAGNY_SECRETARY@LYCOS.COM

**SPECIAL INTEREST
ARTICLE:**

- ✦ Muktaḍ Prayers
- ✦ Projects in Memory of 9/11
- ✦ Good Deeds at the Picnic
- ✦ Celebration of New Year



**THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
DARBE MEHR ZOROASTRIAN TEMPLE**

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
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AND**

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THE IRANIAN ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION**

**CORDIALLY INVITE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY TO A
COMMUNITY GET-TOGETHER TO MEET TOWN OFFICIALS**

AND THE

UNVEILING OF THE DONOR PLAQUE

AT THE

ARBAB RUSTOM GUIV DARBE MEHR

106 POMONA ROAD, SUFFERN, NY

AT 3 P.M. ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2002

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

YOUR R.S.V.P. IS REQUESTED

PLEASE REFER TO PAGE 7

HIGHLIGHTS:

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ANNOUNCEMENTS & DONATIONS



CONGRATULATIONS TO

Rohinton & Navaz Dadina on the birth of their daughter, Shirin on April 23rd, 2002.



CHANGE IN CONTACT INFORMATION

Shehriyar Antia:

2103 8th Avenue, Apt 5D
New York, New York 10026

Smita and Xerxes Antia

5555 Wissahickon Ave
Apt 818, Philadelphia, PA 19144
215.848.3143

Jamsheed and Niloufer Banaji:

16 Mayflower Lane
Fairfield, CT 06430

Spenta Cama and Adam Schenck:

507 Normandy Village,
Nanuet, New York 10954
845.624.4381

Anita Langrana:

88 Greenwich Street, Apt 1022,
New York, New York 10006
212.809.0663



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Aryanish Kapadia:

30 Waterside Plaza, Apt 8E
New York, New York 10010

Ashok & Tenaz Vemuri:

1306 Stech Drive
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

GENERAL FUND	
Ashodad from Aug 18 th - Mukdad's	\$157.00
Ashodad from Aug 24 th - Papeti	\$ 90.00
Dolat Bamji (in memory of the late Merwan Bamji)	\$101.00
Pesi Bavaadam	\$ 21.00
Kaizad Cama	\$ 50.00
Sheroo Contractor	\$ 21.00
Dinyar and Ashish Devitre	\$ 30.00
Rohinton Kapadia	\$ 50.00
Goolcher and Kayomarz Khambatta	\$ 25.00
United Way - Virasp Davar	\$ 43.14
United Way - Tri-State Companies (no name provided)	\$ 54.47
CRITICAL ASSISTANCE FUND	
Sheroo Contractor	\$ 25.00
Sarosh and Nergish Hodiwalla	\$ 51.00
NEW BUILDING FUND	
Rustom and Farangis Bhopti	\$300.00
Sheroo Contractor	\$ 21.00
SCHOLARSHIP FUND	
Sheroo Contractor	\$ 25.00
Farokh and Pouruchisti Hirjibehedin	\$501.00

GOOD DEEDS AT THE PICNIC

On August 11th, over 60 members of the ZAGNY community gathered at Tomahawk Lake for the first community picnic in 8 years. After enjoying a sumptuous picnic buffet, the group burned calories playing cricket and volleyball organized by the two Virafs; Commissariat and Ghadially. Others participated in fun-filled word and song games led organized by Aban Chavda and Fall Shroff. Farokh Daruwalla entertained the crowd with his many impersonations of Indian singers, and with Rashna Harda, led the group in singing several Hindi pop songs. Surrounding groups were quite amused by the jolly crowd.

In addition to all the merriment and jokes, the group rose in the face of some challenges as well. Rohaan Mehta, a Medical Intern, sprinted to the aid of a park lifeguard who pulled a drowning man out of the lake. Rohaan revived him and stayed with him until he was stabilized and further help was dispatched. In a separate incident, Fall Shroff, who came to the defense of a young man who was wrongly accused of stealing. ZAGNY is proud of the actions of both Rohaan and Fall for they exemplify the Zarathushti ethic.

After all the excitement, the day ended with steaming cups of tea, made with lilee chai and foodina, brewed over the hot coals by Dinyar Hodiwalla. Many thanks to Sheroo Kanga and others who made this a memorable day for one and all.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A GARA?

DO YOU NEED SAREE BORDERS?

Garas and saree borders will be sold on Sunday, September 8, 2002 at the Pomona Darbe Mehr, between from 2 PM and 4.30 PM.

Garas costing between \$250 -\$550 will be available.

We accept special orders.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

SEPTEMBER 2002	OCTOBER 2002
<p>7 IZA Persian Language Classes</p> <p>8 ZAGNY Religious Class</p> <p>15 WZCC Meeting</p>	<p>5 IZA Persian Language Classes</p> <p>6 ZAGNY Religious Class</p> <p>6 COMMUNITY GET TOGETHER and PLAQUE CEREMONY</p> <p>20 Udvada Fundraising Luncheon</p>
ALL MONTH – Projects in Memory of 9/11	ALL MONTH – Projects in Memory of 9/11
<p>Upcoming Events:</p> <p>November 2 – IZA Persian Language Classes</p> <p>November 3 – ZAGNY Religious Class</p> <p>December 1 – ZAGNY Religious Class</p> <p>December 7 – IZA Persian Language Classes</p>	

✦ **THE NEW YORK CHAPTER OF THE WZCC – SEPTEMBER MEETING**

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, ASAP, and confirm your attendance by contacting one of the following ASAP: Rusi Gandhi (973-263-9619); Arnaz Maneckshana (201-393-7102); Noshir Dutia (973-328-2881) or Edul Daver (732-469-1866).

✦ **PROJECTS IN MEMORY OF 9-11**

The Unity of Spirit Act, 2002 (USA) offers Americans an opportunity to remember those lost on September 11, and to respond to the attacks in a positive way by rebuilding communities through volunteer service. To that end, ZAGNY and IZA have registered 3 volunteer activities as official projects:

- ❖ A Food/Pantry Drive (Collection of packaged/can goods such as pasta, spaghetti sauce, cereal, soup, canned vegetables and fish etc. Also personal care items such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shaving aids etc.)
- ❖ Winter Clothing Drive (warm clothing for all age groups in good condition, blankets etc.)
- ❖ Dress for Success Drive (Business attire for men and women that can be worn by individuals transitioning from welfare to self-sufficiency who need to dress up for job interviews.)

THESE PROJECTS ARE NOT POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOUR HELP.

Please bring items to the Darbe Mehr or hand them to a friend who will be visiting the Darbe Mehr from NOW THROUGH NOVEMBER 15. Place the items in marked collection boxes.

For more information please call Mehru Cama at (201) 569 -7359 or email at mlcama@nfow.COM.

✳ **AN URGENT APPEAL FOR NAZNEEN KOLAH**

Dr. Jasmine Kolah, a homoeopath doctor and her husband Aspi, appeal for assistance to the Zoroastrian community in Greater New York. Their daughter Nazneen who is almost 3 years old has a very rare form of cancer; she was diagnosed with a Neuroblastoma Tumor in March 2002. While the tumor is responding to chemotherapy, it may prove fatal if it is not removed by the end of September 2002. The Kolahs currently reside in Helsinki, but doctors there are unable to perform the procedure to remove the tumor. The Kolahs have been informed that the tumor can be removed by means of a surgical procedure which is only available at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) in New York.

To give their child a chance at life the Kolahs must raise \$250,000 USD for this surgery at the MSKCC. They are in the process of selling all their personal assets but even this effort will not be nearly enough. **They appeal to you for your assistance.**

In a recent email written by Dr. Kolah, the family's need for assistance was evident. "I sincerely appeal to your Zoroastrian Community if you can consider us giving whatever donations you can, give us. If you need to confirm what we have written is true or need any other documentary proof from us etc, please do write back. We can also phone you up if you give us your telephone number. Our contact phone number is 00358-41-5376399.... We are also in the process of making diplomatic efforts through the Indian Embassy in New York. If you can also help us with ideas on how to make public appeals in the US Media begging for help, that would also be very helpful. Any help by way of donations or by way of ideas on how to arrange for donations would be very helpful. OTHERWISE OUR CHILD WILL DIE. She is our only daughter PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW HER TO DIE. She has a chance to live if we can arrange for the money. Thanking you. May God bless you all. Waiting eagerly to hear from you. Jasmine Kolah".

Please send your donations to Rashid Mehin, Treasurer, FEZANA at 583 Beverly Place, San Marcos, CA 92069. Checks for the donations should be made payable to FEZANA with "Critical Assistance for Nazneen Kolah" in the memo field.



✳ **ZARATHUSTHI RUNS FOR CONGRESS***

Ayesha F. Nariman, a resident of Buffalo is running for the United States Congress from the 26th District of New York. She is believed to be the first Zoroastrian to run for congressional office - a huge milestone for the Zoroastrian community in the U.S. You can learn more about her candidacy at <http://www.buffalonews.com/editorial/20020807/1029916.asp>.

✳ **SOONI TARAPOREVALA HONORED**

On Saturday July 27, in Manhattan, several ZAGNY members attended or were involved in a gala event sponsored by SAAID, honoring acclaimed screenwriter and photographer Sooni Taraporevala. A special thanks to those ZAGNY members that attended and served tirelessly as volunteers that night.

✳ **CELEBRATION OF THE SHAHENSHAHI NEW YEAR**

The Zarathusti community in Greater New York gathered in large numbers at the Pomona Darbe Mehr to celebrate the Shahenshahi New Year on August 24, 2002. As members registered for the event they could view a variety of handouts and flyers of various initiatives in the community. The community rang in the New Year in the spirit of joy and renewal.

The celebration began with a jashan during which 4 priests prayed for the well being of the community for years to come. Of great interest was Mobediyar Beheram Deboo, who although not a member of a priest family by birth, is a certified mobed upon his graduation from the Mobediyar School.

Following the jashan, Viraf Commissariat informed the community of the sale of the New Rochelle Darbe Mehr. The ZAGNY Board had also organized a fun-filled program, which included an eloquent reading of stories from the Shah Nameh by Rohan Arcot and Neville Commissariat and Gujarati songs sung with great pizzazz.

The highlight of the evening was the arrival of Sarina Jain, also known as the "Jane Fonda of India". A special guest at the event, Ms. Jain, energized the crowd as she taught them how to dance to bhangra music. It was great to see our members young and old having a grand old time on the dance floor. What a great way to welcome the New Shahenshahi Year 1372!

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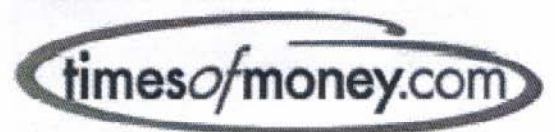
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MUKTAD PRAYERS



Photo provided by Mr. & Mrs. Noshir Baria

This year, over 100 individuals from the ZAGNY Community participated in the Muktaad Prayers which were held at various locations, from August 16th through August 20th, 2002.

On Sunday, August 18, 2002 at the Pomona Darbe Mehr, five of our community priests, Darius Antia, Rohinton Dadina, Noshir Karanjia, Rohinton Madon and Meheroz Rabadi, led this solemn prayer ceremony in memory of dearly departed souls. The main hall resembled a peaceful garden in full bloom. There were vases strewn on both sides of the hall, which were overflowing with bouquets of flowers. Mr. & Mrs. Goolcher and Kayomarz Khambatta echoed the sentiments of many in the community when they said, "Thank you very much for the peaceful prayers. We appreciate the efforts of all concerned."

We are grateful to the host families, Yasmin and Jamshed Ghadiali, Teshtar and Noshir Irani, Hutoxi and Dinshaw Bardoliwalla and Goolu and Noshir Baria for graciously volunteered their homes and the priests who contributed their personal time so that the community could avail itself of these ceremonies.



Photo provided by Mr. & Mrs. Noshir Baria

REFLECTIONS

ZAGNY PRESIDENT, Homi D. Gandhi, writes a letter to the community at the beginning of the of the New Year.

As I sit at my computer, reading the overflowing congratulatory messages about the success of the Pateti celebration at the Pomona Darbe Mehr on August 24, 2002, I feel joyous about the contribution of the ZAGNY Board members and all other volunteers. By whatever measure you look at it, the function was a grand success because of the efforts of the community. The genuine outpouring of the well-wishers' messages humbles me. I thank all those who contributed to this event's success.

At the beginning of this New Year, one is inevitably reminded of the tragic events of September 11, 2001. That day is not going to be erased from the minds and hearts of any of us for a long time to come. History has recorded the horror of the day. But the consequences of that day need to be addressed even today. ZAGNY has decided to respond to the September 11 attacks in a positive way by rebuilding communities through volunteer activities. [See page 3.]

Similarly, Behram Pastakia of ZAMWI and I are leading a team of young Zoroastrians, representing FEZANA, at a United Nations NGO/DPI conference on September 9-11, 2002. The Conference focuses on "Rebuilding Societies Emerging from Conflict". Our community is also going out to build relationships with our neighbors in the vicinity of our Darbe Mehr in the Pomona/Suffern area. [See page 1]

Finally, as I write this letter to you, thousands of miles away on the other side of the Atlantic, Nazneen Kolah, a young girl less than 3 years old, is fighting for her life in a hospital in Helsinki, Finland. [See page 4] The cost of the surgery to save Nazneen is upwards of \$250,000. I urge you all to contribute towards the cost of this operation. The Kolah family is working with the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre in New York to set up an account for this surgery. We will inform the community as more details are available. May Ahura Mazda Bless the Kolah family and help them in their hour of need!

RSVP FOR COMMUNITY GET TOGETHER

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.

RSVP'S VIA PHONE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED - ALL RSVP'S MUST BE RECEIVED BY SEPT 21ST.

TO RSVP VIA E-MAIL:

Send an email to ZAGNY_SECRETARY@LYCOS.COM with a total number of attendees.
Your E-mail must be received by September 21st.

TO RSVP VIA FAX:

Tear of the section below and fax to 646-452-9021
Your fax must be received by September 21st.

TO RSVP VIA MAIL:

Tear of this section and mail to:
ZAGNY c/o Arnavaz F. Patel
2077 Center Ave
Fort Lee, NJ 07095
Your mailed form must be received by September 21st.

I/We _____

Will Attend _____

Will Not Attend _____

The Community Get-Together and Unveiling Ceremony of the Donors' Plaque
at the Arbab Rustom Guiv Darbe Mehr
on Sunday, October 6, 2002



ZAGNY
106 Pomona Road
Suffern, NY 10901

E-Mail
zagny_secretary@lycos.com

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