



ISSUE 10

ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW YORK

APRIL 2003 NEWSLETTER

Office of the Mayor

CITY OF NEW YORK



Proclamation

WHEREAS: NEW YORKERS OF MANY BACKGROUNDS ARE CELEBRATING THEIR NEW YEAR HOLIDAY ON THE TWENTIETH AND TWENTY-FIRST OF MARCH. PEOPLE WITH ORIGINS IN IRAN, AFGHANISTAN, AND CENTRAL ASIA AND KURDISH PEOPLE FROM MANY NATIONS WELCOME NOWRUZ AT 7:59:45 PM ON THE 20TH, THE MOMENT THE SPRING EQUINOX BEGINS IN NEW YORK CITY. PARSIS OF INDIAN AND SOUTH ASIAN DESCENT ALWAYS CELEBRATE ON MARCH 21ST. FOR ALL, NOWRUZ CELEBRATES THE BEGINNING OF SPRING, AND WELCOMES THE RETURN OF NEW LIFE, LIGHT, AND WARMTH TO THE WORLD AFTER THE LONG WINTER.

WHEREAS: THE POPULAR HOLIDAY ORIGINATED IN IRAN AT LEAST 3000 YEARS AGO, AND WAS OBSERVED BY THE SUMERIANS, BABYLONIANS, AND OTHER CULTURES OF ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA. WHILE ITS ROOTS ARE IN THE ZOROASTRIAN RELIGION, NOWRUZ IS CELEBRATED BY PEOPLE OF ALL FAITHS. EACH CULTURE AND EACH COMMUNITY HAS ITS OWN TRADITIONS, AND ALL GATHER WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS FOR SPECIAL MEALS, PRAYERS, AND JOYFUL CELEBRATIONS.

WHEREAS: DURING NOWRUZ, NEW YORKERS OF ALL AGES CELEBRATE THEIR RICH HERITAGE AND CHERISHED TRADITIONS IN HOMES AND RESTAURANTS, AND AT PUBLIC EVENTS THROUGHOUT OUR CITY, THE HOME OF PEOPLE FROM EVERY CULTURE AND EVERY NATION. WE ARE PROUD THAT THIS ANCIENT HOLIDAY IS NOW AN IMPORTANT EVENT ON OUR CITY'S CALENDAR. AS WE EAGERLY AWAIT THE FIRST CHERRY BLOSSOMS, DAFFODILS, FORSYTHIA AND TULIPS HERALDING SPRING, ALL NEW YORKERS JOIN THEIR NEIGHBORS IN CELEBRATING NOWRUZ AND WELCOMING THE SPRING EQUINOX, AFTER AN ESPECIALLY GLOOMY WINTER.

NOW THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, IN RECOGNITION OF THIS IMPORTANT ANNUAL EVENT, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM MARCH 20 AND 21, 2003 IN NEW YORK CITY AS

NOWRUZ DAYS



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND CAUSED THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK TO BE AFFIXED.


MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG
MAYOR

NOWRUZ PROCLAIMED A HOLIDAY CELEBRATION IN NEW YORK CITY

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The Mayor of New York City, **Michael Bloomberg**, issued a formal proclamation recognizing the holiday of Nowruz. It may be the first Nowruz proclamation by a United States civic leader that formally recognizes all the diverse religious and ethnic communities who celebrate this holiday - including the people of Afghan, Iranian, Kurdish, and Central Asian origin, irrespective of religion (including Muslims, Zoroastrians, Christians, Jews, and Bahais), as well as by Zoroastrians of South Asian (of the Indian subcontinent) background, known as Parsis. While other proclamations have been issued by local and national leaders recently, all have been aimed at one specific community only (including a 1999 proclamation by New York City's Mayor Giuliani to the Iranian-American community and the 2002 proclamations by President Bush and Secretary of State Powell that were issued separately to the Iranian-American and the Afghan-American communities). By contrast, this Mayor Bloomberg's proclamation specifically notes that Nowruz is a multi-religious and multi-cultural New Year holiday shared by many.

Mayor Bloomberg's proclamation also acknowledges the diversity of how Nowruz is celebrated - stating that

most cultures celebrate the holiday at the actual time of the spring equinox, usually on March 20th, while Parsi Zoroastrians, who call the holiday "Navroze" or "Nowroj", celebrate on the fixed day of March 21st.

The community extends its gratitude and thanks to **Tamina Davar** for taking the initiative to secure this proclamation. With so many different people celebrating Nowruz within the New York City area, Tamina was surprised to learn that no one else had made this request before. The goal of the proclamation was to be inclusive of all Zoroastrians that celebrate Nowruz/Navroze. This is why the proclamation acknowledges the celebrations take place on different days and in different ways.

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS & DONATIONS



CHANGE IN CONTACT INFORMATION

Arnaz Maneckshana
277 Prospect Avenue, Unit 3C
Hackensack, NJ 07601
(201)342-7283



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Kaizad Darbari
353 East 83rd Street, Apartment 19H
New York, NY 10028

Hutokshi and Shawn Goolcharan
1520 Lincoln Avenue
New Hyde Park, NY 11040

Armin and Jahangir Khan
23 Ontario Road
Floral Park, NY 11001

Cyrus Pardiwala
177 Secor Road
Scarsdale, NY 10583

Ajay Thakrar
2 Fenbrook Drive
Larchmont, NY 10538

Arzan Wadia
176 Quincy Street, Apartment 3
Brooklyn, NY 11216



THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Avan Pervez Patel would like to thank everyone that has given her your valued support in raising funds for the American Cancer Society's "Daffodil Days" program, especially to those who continue to support her fundraising for this program year after year. Thanks to individuals like Avan, this program gets stronger and more popular nationwide each year. Her hard work and your contributions make a difference in helping find a cure for this dreaded illness.



IN OUR THOUGHTS...

Murzban (Murzy) and **Bezan Morris**, the two youngest sons of Fred and Zahver Morris, are currently serving in the United States Armed Forces. Murzy is an Operations Officer on the USS John McCain, which is currently in the Persian Gulf. His younger brother, Bezan, is a First Lieutenant in I Battery Unit of the Third Battalion in the 11th Marines. In Bezan's most recent communication with his family, he wrote that he was in Baghdad.

We wish all our troops a safe and speedy return home. Please include them and the entire Morris family in your prayers.



DONATIONS

CRITICAL ASSISTANCE FUND	
Keki and Diane Mody	\$ 101
Anonymous	\$ 20
GENERAL FUND	
United Way of New York City – unknown donor	\$ 93
United Way of New York City – unknown donor	\$ 64.66
Lovji and Mehru Cama	\$ 51
Paul and Tricia Johnson	\$ 25
Anonymous	\$ 25
Feroz Nentin	\$ 20
Susan Karani	\$ 15
NEW BUILDING FUND	
Rusi Gandhi, from sale of Arnaz Maneckshana's home	\$ 572
Rohinton and Yasmin Madon	\$ 101
Darayes and Roshni Bharda	\$ 50
Rusi and Shernaz Sethna	\$ 50
Ruyintan and Monica Mehta	\$ 50
Darius and Freny Panveliwalla	\$ 40
Noshir and Dinaz Langrana	\$ 25
Susan Karani	\$ 20
SCHLOARSHIP FUND	
Jehangir and Daulat Vania	\$ 25
Anonymous	\$ 25
DONATION IN KIND	
Fali and Pervin Shroff for painting of classrooms	\$ 250



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CONTACT
Armin Pooniwalla
12 - Gulnar, Hill Road,
Bandra, Bombay
arminfarrokh@hotmail.com
Phone # Daytime : 24475656 or 24472541
Phone # Evening : 26415656 or 26423026

GREAT PRIZES FOR JUST \$5!
HELP ZAGNY RAISE FUNDS FOR THE DARBE MEHR

At the 2003 Navroze function, ZAGNY launched a fundraising raffle. The phenomenal prizes below have been donated to ZAGNY.

For just **\$5 BUCKS**, you could walk away with a fantastic prize:



FIRST PRIZE (\$1,000 value)



BOSE HOME ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM



SECOND PRIZE (\$500 value)



BOSE WAVE RADIO W/ CD



THIRD PRIZE (\$300 value)



BOSE HEADPHONE

ZAGNY is hoping to sell 1,000 raffle tickets and raise \$5,000. Proceeds from this raffle will go towards funding the improvements that the Darbe Mehr Zoroastrian Trustees (DMZT) have begun making in order to make our Community Center more beautiful.

We need your help to make this raffle a success! Please contact **Toni Ghadially** at (732) 972-6527 or sghadially@hotmail.com, or speak with any ZAGNY Board member, and get yourself tickets to sell to your friends, co-workers, and acquaintances. Prizes will be awarded at the August 23rd Pateti function. Those who win do not need to be present to claim their prize.

All ticket stubs from sold tickets and monies raised must be mailed by August 23, 2003 to Toni Ghadially, 12 Rockwell Circle, Marlboro, NJ 07746. Please send a check, payable to ZAGNY, for the monies raised, as cash will not be accepted.

FEZANA NEWS

FEZANA is holding an election to secure a new Vice President and Secretary. ZAGNY is proud to announce that we have nominated **Gev Nentin** for FEZANA Vice President. Mahrukh Motafram is also running for the Vice President position. The biodata of the individual candidates can be accessed on www.fezana.org.

REAL ESTATE OFFER THAT ASSISTS ZAGNY

Rusi Gandhi, Chapter Chair of The Greater New York Zoroastrian Chamber of Commerce, is available to assist you with your next commercial or residential real estate transaction.....and ZAGNY benefits too!

Members of any Zoroastrian organization and/or their families, neighbors and friends, who wish to purchase, sell or rent a commercial or residential property in the United States, Canada or in any of the 52 countries where Re/Max operates, are encouraged to contact Rusi Gandhi at (800) 575-6005, Ext.117 or rusigandhi@remax.net. You can also send any relevant information to him via fax at (973) 575-8514.

Upon receipt of all relevant information, Rusi will put you in direct contact with a competent local Re/Max agent in your area who will offer you valuable professional expertise in assisting you with all aspects of the deal. At the time of closing, ZAGNY will receive a check for 10% of the fees received by Rusi.

ZAGNY would like to thank Rusi and his clientele for contributing over \$3,084 in the past 5 years.

ZAGNY SCHLOARSHIPS FOR 2003-2004 AVAILABLE

ZAGNY invites applications for Financial Assistance (Scholarship/Loan) for the academic year 2003-2004 from its members who are studying at institutions within the United States. Applicants should be full-time students. **The deadline for filing an application is June 1, 2003.**

Application forms and information can be obtained from the scholarship committee chairperson: **Cyrus F. Hirjibehedin**, 600 W. 114th Street, Apt. 1W, New York, NY 10025; Tel: 212-663-5768; Email: cfh6@columbia.edu.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

<p style="text-align: center;">MAY 2003</p> <p>3 IZA Persian Language Classes 2003 REVLON RUN/WALK! <i>(see below for details)</i></p> <p>4 ZAGNY Religious Classes and DMZT AGM **** (12 PM START) ERVAD BAJAN SEMINAR and LUNCH **** (2 PM START) <i>(see below for details)</i></p> <p>17 Intermarried Zarathusthi Group <i>(see below for details)</i></p> <p>18 WZCC – How to Start a Business <i>(see below for details)</i></p> <p>24 - 25 Annual General Meeting of FEZANA</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">JUNE 2003</p> <p>1 ZAGNY Religious Classes **** (2 PM START)</p> <p>7 IZA Persian Language Classes</p> <p>+++++ FUTURE EVENTS (DATES TO BE DETERMINE): ** Ivy F. Gandhi Camp ** ZAGNY Picnic</p>
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© **PARTICIPATE IN THE REVLON RUN/WALK – MAY 3, 2003**

Please help support the fight against women's cancers. Join us on May 3rd in the 6th annual Revlon Run/Walk. The event starts in Times Square and ends in Central Park. Sign up yourself, your friends and your family. The team captain for this year's ZAGNY team is **Usheen Davar**. To participate, go onto www.revlonrunwalk.com and register under "teams". Please make sure you enter our team number **1109** for the Zoroastrian Association of Greater NY. If you cannot participate, but would like to donate, please go to the same website and go under "teams". Enter our team number, 1109, and then select a member of the ZAGNY team for whom you are making a donation. If you have any questions, please contact Usheen at (917) 432-5214.

© **SPECIAL – ERVAD PARVEZ BAJAN SEMINAR – MAY 4, 2003**

Ervad Parvez Bajan from Mumbai is visiting various North American cities. On May 4th, at 3 PM, he and his wife Bapsy will be visiting the Pomona Darbe Mehr. Ervad Bajan is an ordained practicing Priest and an Officer in the banking industry. He has spoken and presented papers at the International Congresses on Zoroastrianism in Mumbai, the Oriental Conferences in Delhi, and the 1999 International Avesta Conference in Calgary. Ervad Bajan will be speaking to our community on some of the following topics:

- Zoroastrian Daily Life
- Short Historical account of Zoroastrian Religious Scriptures
- Introduction to Zoroastrianism
- Women's role in Zoroastrian Tradition
- Short History of Iran-shah Fire

Please join us in welcoming them. Many thanks to Vispi and Sheroo Kanga for hosting the Bajans and to Pervez and Katie Patel for picking the Bajans up from the airport. If you plan on attending, please send an email to zagny_secretary@lycos.com. Lunch will be served at 2 PM.

NOTE: ON THIS DAY RELIGIOUS CLASSES WILL BEGIN AT 12PM.

© **INAUGURAL MEETING FOR INTERMARRIED ZARATHUSTHI GROUP RESCHEDULED TO MAY 17, 2003**

We would like to thank those that responded to the intermarried survey over the last few months. Twenty-two intermarried couples sent in their responses and an inaugural meeting was scheduled for April 29, 2003. The meeting is being rescheduled to May 17, 2003. Respondents will be informed directly. For additional details, please contact **Viraf Ghadially** at vghad@hotmail.com or **Fali D. Shroff** at fali_shroff@yahoo.com.


Ⓢ **WZCC – HOW TO START YOUR OWN BUSINESS WORKSHOP - MAY 18, 2003**

The Greater NY Chapter of WZCC will present "*How to Start Your Own Business*" on May 18th, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. This workshop will help you get started with that business of your dreams. Learn how to write a business plan, get tips on marketing, e-business, managing cash flow, and the legal sidebars of how to incorporate or form a partnership. As daunting as the idea of starting a new business can be, chances are that turning your dream into reality is one of your best.

Please call Chapter chair, **Rusi Gandhi**, at (973) 263-9619, Membership Director, **Noshir Dutia**, at (973) 328-2881, or Public Relations Director, **Arnaz Maneckshana**, at (201) 342-7283, to sign up for this free workshop. Refreshments will be served.

Ⓢ **LITTLE ZOROASTRIANS PERFORMANCE – JUNE 1, 2003**

Our littlest Zoroastrians (class 1) are going to perform a play called "*The Birth of Zarathustra*" on June 1st. The children are looking forward to performing this play for you. This play was written by **Khursheed Navder** and will be narrated by **Tina and Jasmine Dukandar**. The kids and parents have all joined in painting the props and creating the costumes. The storyline involves the difficulties faced by Zarathustra as a baby, and his parents Doghdhova and Pourushaspa, played by **Deanna Chhor** and **Shawn Bengalee**, while the "evil-guys" will be played by **Arzan Dotiwala** and **Sam Merchant**. Come prepared for a suspenseful drama by actors who are between 3 and 7 years old!



THE ZOROASTRIAN SOCIETY OF ONTARIO
IN ASSOCIATION WITH FEZANA

PROUDLY PRESENTS

The 10th North American Zoroastrian Youth Congress

July 24 – 27, 2003

Toronto, Ontario
CANADA

www.nexus2003.com

Welcome to Nexus 2003!

The 10th North American Zoroastrian Youth Congress will be held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada from July 24th to July 27th, 2003. There will be post-congress activities and host families available from July 27th to July 30th for those of you who wish to extend your stay and tour around Toronto and Niagara Falls.

The theme of the congress will be NEXUS. We encourage our attendees to look up the meaning of Nexus before attending the congress. At the end of the congress the attendees can discuss what Nexus meant to them.

Take advantage of our early bird registration fees as follows:

Registration Type	CDN \$	USD \$
Early bird - before March 21 st , 2003	\$ 265*	\$ 178*
Between March 21, 2003 and July 1, 2003	\$ 340*	\$ 228*
After July 1 st , 2003	\$ 500*	\$ 335*

* Includes **ALL** meals (including Gala Banquet Dinner) and congress registration from July 24-27, 2003, excluding July 25, 2003 dinner.

Please visit the official congress website at www.nexus2003.com for full details and registration forms on all activities.

The Ontario Community looks forward to seeing you all here in Toronto. For more information or comments and suggestions please email us at nazyc2003@yahoo.com

ZAGNY CELEBRATES JAMSHEDI NAVROZE

Jamshedi Navroze was celebrated at the Pomona Darbe Mehr on March 22, 2003. The Darbe Mehr was buzzing with talk of how successful and enjoyable the event was.



At each of our festive functions, we begin our celebration with prayers and today was not an exception. Our mobeds: **Ervad Rohinton Madon**, **Ervad Rohinton Dadina**, and our youngest priest **Poruz Khambatta** recited the "Atash Niayesh" standing in front of the "Afergaan". It is very remarkable that our priests collaborated with the community by commencing the prayers with punctuality although a very small congregation was present when the prayers began. The whole congregation received the prayers standing throughout the period. For many this was an emotional experience and we are very thankful to the priests for enriching our celebration with their contribution.

Following the prayer, **Homi Gandhi** welcomed the congregation to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and he presented the President's Report, which highlighted events since March 2002 and detailed upcoming projects. This was followed by the Secretary's Report, presented by **Arnavaz Patel** and the Treasurer's Report, presented by **Jasmin Kotwal**. The AGM was brought to a close after the unanimous approval of the 2002 Financial statements. **Viraf Commissariat**, DMZT Chairman spoke to the community about the continuing projects of DMZT.

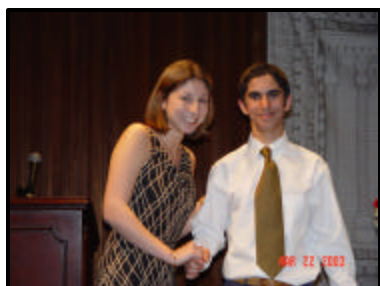
Attendees at the Jamshedi Navroze function especially enjoyed the haft-seen table, dance performance, catering and DJs.

- ☞ The customary sofreh haft-seen or haft-seen table was presented at the main entrance of the Darbe Mehr. The table was laid with seven gifts of nature that have names beginning with the Farsi letter "seen". ZAGNY's haft-seen table was laden with fruit, nuts, sweets and snacks, candles. The table was beautifully presented by **Goolu Baria**, **Toni Ghadially** and **Teshtar Irani**.

- ☞ **Tamina Davar** and **Tanaz Parmar** provided an energized and engaging dance performance to San Sanaa from the movie Asoka. It was obvious to all the amount of hard work put into this performance by Tamina and Tanaz. Rumor has it that they are now being sought after by Bollywood producers!



- ☞ In the midst of the Navroze celebrations, ZAGNY's, **Temi Ghadially** was proud to present the Good Life Emblem for excellence in community service to **Rod Jamshedian**. In addition to completing the workbook, Rod spent over 40 hours with his boy scout troop beautifying the outside community. Rod is currently pursuing the Eagle Scout rank, the highest in the Boy Scouts of America. ZAGNY would like to congratulate Rod and his family on this great achievement. In recent months, the Good Life book has been rewritten by **Professor Kaikhosrov D. Irani**, **Dr. Lovji Cama** and **Framroze K. Patel**, with the assistance of many others. The first copy of the new edition was presented to **Navroz Gandhi**, in honor of his mother, **Villy**, and her contributions to this program.



- ☞ **Kamal Davar** was caterer extraordinaire. Not only did Kamal provide us with yummy Indian food, she provided a beautifully decorated environment complete with table decorations and wall art. Everyone in attendance mentioned how spacious the Darbe Mehr felt due to the table layouts, which also was due to Kamal's hard work. The enormity of this job and the amount of work done by Kamal and the entire Davar family was much appreciated by all.

☞ The DJ, **Jim Kim**, is also known as Mr. Line Dance because there isn't a line dance that he doesn't know. Jim sought out the young Zoroastrians and entertained us all with a cutthroat version of musical chairs for kids *and* adults. The kiddy limbo line was fantastic. If you were looking for your child, chances were they were on the dance floor. Jim also entertained the adults; there wasn't a requested song that he couldn't play. He had the floor packed to the typical line dances and he even taught us a new one, the Cha-Cha Slide. Who knew there was a line dance that the ZAGNY crowd didn't already know?! The hard work of Jim and his partner, Kam Kwan, was much appreciated.

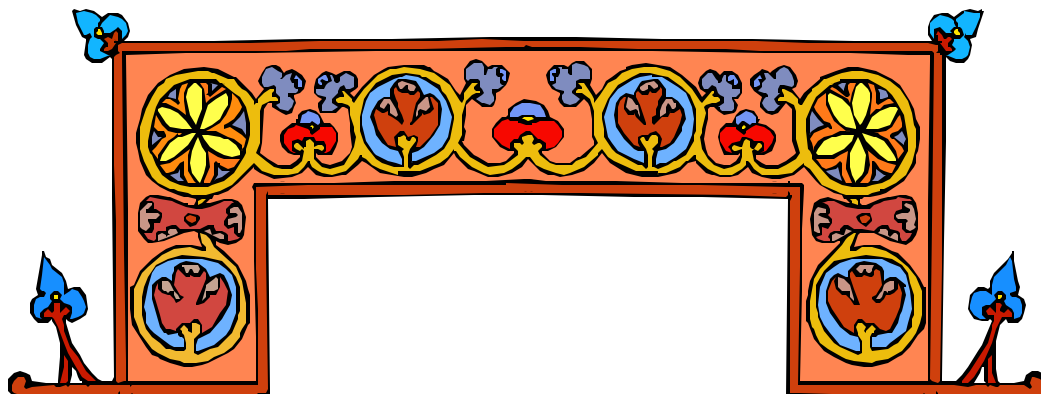


To all those that played a part in making this function so successful, thank you very much. We've received comments from quite a few of ZAGNY members, regarding the function; the following is just a sample:

"The Navroze function was absolutely wonderful. I, Arnaz Dotivala, and my husband, Cyrus, both agreed that it was very well organized, especially the layout of the fine eateries for adults but especially, the kiddy tables. In our opinion, Kamal Davar did an amazing job with all the food; it was absolutely delicious. The DJ, he was absolutely fabulous! I'm not joking; the dance floor was packed. Although I did not dance, I did enjoy the music. The kids as well as the adults were entertained very well. The classical dance was definitely the highlight of the evening. I believe these functions are all about culture and remembering where we come from. I had never seen an actual layout of the Navroze table and now I can definitely relate to it. All in all, the ZAGNY Board deserves a big 'Thank You' for all your efforts and organizing to make this function such a success."

"The Jamshedi Navroze function this year was delightful. In addition to sumptuous appetizers and a delicious meal, we enjoyed the Indian dance and the music/games held by the DJs very much. The kids' corner too was a great idea, as was having the kids' snacks/food in the kids' corner. As for the games, kids and adults alike participated, and those of us that did not participate, enjoyed watching the games! The new Darbe Mehr has started to feel like "home" to the community as the newness wears off and the comfort of belonging sets in. The event was very well attended, and our friends thronged the corridors. It heartens me to see a large group so well integrated and having fun together. How I love the elegant fashions, charming saris, and exquisite dresses and kiddies running about in happy groups. Thanks again for a delightful evening!" – Navaz Merchant

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ZAGNY'S PRESIDENT'S REPORT AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

BY: HOMI D. GANDHI

Happy Nowruz to you all! May the year ahead be full of happiness and good health for you, your family and friends, and our community! Also, in the midst of this ever-changing world, may we all continue to strive to practice the teachings of Asho Zarathust (Humata -Hukhta -Harvarashta) in all that we do on a daily basis, to do what is right for our families and communities, and to make this world a better place for our children and our childrens' children.

I would now like to share with you the Proclamation of NOWRUZ DAYS made by Mayor Michael Bloomberg of the City of New York. This Proclamation (refer to page 1 and 2) has resulted in a more prominent awareness of NOWRUZ within our local communities in the NY-NJ-CT area. My thanks to **Tamina Davar** who has worked persistently on this assignment and has made it possible for all of us to share this holiday with our friends in our local communities and with our colleagues in our workplace.

I would now like to recognize some members of our community that have worked tirelessly on your behalf over the past year.

First, my thanks to the mobeds who prayed so beautifully this afternoon: **Ervad Rohinton Madon, Ervad Rohinton Dadina**, and our youngest priest **Poruz Khambatta**. In addition to those mobeds that were just recognized, the following mobeds/ervads have also been instrumental to our community, always showing their willingness to do jashan/prayers whenever we have asked them: **Ervad Pervez Patel, Ervad Darius Antia, Ervad Meheroz Rabadi, Ervad Sam Sethna**, and **Ervad Noshir Karanjia**.

Next, I would like to thank our religion class teachers, priests and helpers: **Lovji Cama, Teshtar Irani, Shiraz Unvala, Avan Patel, Pervez Patel, Sam Sethna, Julie Bharucha, Percis Commissariat, Rushad Dutia, Sheri Nentin**, and the parents who have worked with the smallest kids, **Navaz Merchant, Arnaz Dotiwala, & Navaz Sethna**.

Next, I would like to thank the DMZT Trustees for all their efforts in making this our Darbe Mehr as the beautiful place where come & enjoy events all throughout the year: **Viraf Commissariat, Ardeshir Kiamanesh, Gev Nentin, Noshir Baria, Noshir Langrana, & Yasmin Ghadiali**. Behind their efforts, there are many volunteers, who contribute their valuable time as well and I thank you all for your tireless dedication, time and efforts!

There have also been many, many volunteers who have worked throughout the year, either with the ZAGNY Board or the DMZT, in making this Darbe Mehr and our association a better place. **Homi Byramjee & all the parents who volunteered for Ivy Gandhi Camp, Mehru Cama, Tamina Davar, Ushtavaiti Davar, Diana Dinshaw, Sheroo Kanga, Viraf Ghadially, Eruch Munshi, & Framroze Patel**.

And then, there are the Members of the current ZAGNY Board who have volunteered throughout the year and diligently worked together, often times behind the scene, to make all of the events and activities of the last year happen and enjoyable: **Fali Shroff, Jasmin Kotwal, Arnavaz Patel, Goolu Baria, Kamal Davar, Usheen Davar, Toni Ghadially, Cyrus Hirjibehedin, and Vispi Kanga**.

I apologize if I have missed anyone, but a sincere thanks to all members of the congregation in making last year very successful, and I look forward to working with all of you again this year.

Now, I would like to provide you a brief synopsis of what the ZAGNY Board had decided to do last year and what we have achieved:

Our contribution to FEZANA

UN NGO status revived; attendance at the conferences by members **Tenaz Dubash, Suzie Karani, Aysha & Yasmin Ghadiali, Mitra Mehr** & myself from our area. Participation in Working Group by **Gev Nentin**, one of the biggest group at the 12th North American Zoroastrian Congress in Chicago, involvement with other Fezana projects like the Mobed Council meeting and the donation drive for Nazneen Kolah.

Our contribution to the Community we live in

A food & clothing drive, and dress for success for the local community people—thanks for a wonderful job by **Mehru Cama** & all the people who participated in this. Reaching out to the local Community—Unveiling of Plaque Ceremony. Although only one official visited we will keep on trying.

Our commitment to the ZAGNY membership & congregation

Our new look! Newsletter, Involvement of everyone through committees and programs, membership drives, new look websites and new Directory to come out in the future. Details of which you will hear in Secretary's report and in a separate presentation by Fali Shroff, our Vice President.

Wishing you all once again Nowruz Mubarak!



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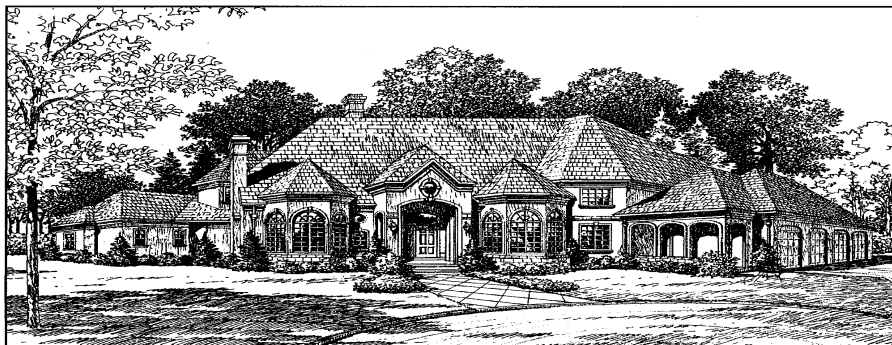
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