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Issue 12

ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW YORK

JULY 2003 NEWSLETTER

ZAGNY_SECRETARY@LYCOS.COM

3000TH ANNIVERSARY OF ZOROASTRIAN CULTURE - CELEBRATIONS BY THE ZOROASTRIAN COMMUNITY OF THE METROPOLITAN NEW YORK AREA

The Executive Board of the United Nation's Economic and Social Council (UNESCO) at its 161st and 162nd sessions approved 47 anniversaries to be celebrated in the years 2002-2003. The oldest anniversary to be celebrated in the year 2003 is the 3000th anniversary of ZOROASTRIAN CULTURE, proposed by the State of Tajikistan.

Tajikistan is planning its celebrations during the period September to November 2003, the details of which are to be finalized soon. We should try to attend the celebrations in Tajikistan and show our solidarity and support for their efforts.

FEZANA has decided to join and support Tajikistan's unique efforts by coordinating celebration activities of the North American member associations. Firdosh Mehta, FEZANA President, has appointed a sub-committee to assist member associations in their efforts to organize events to celebrate the anniversary. Please visit www.fezana.org to view the letter addressed by the sub-committee to the North American Zoroastrian community.

Some of the activities suggested by the sub-committee are:

- Encourage public and school libraries in your area to have a book display on Zoroastrian religion, art, or showcasing famous Zoroastrians. If the library does not have enough books, collect books from the local Zoroastrian community and offer them to the library to display. If you have any extra copies with you, donate them to the public library.
- Organize lecture series or seminars at an institution of higher learning near you that highlights the Zoroastrian influence on Western or non-Western cultures. This could be done through university departments of religion, Middle Eastern, or South Asian studies. This is particularly viable at universities attended by Zoroastrian students.
- Organize events (film festivals, talks, radio talk shows) that celebrate aspects of Zoroastrian culture and history in an appropriate manner.
- Organize public readings of the work of Zoroastrian authors or talks by other experts. It

- may be possible to have the authors themselves to come in and read their work.
- Send press releases publicizing your events to the press; or suggest story ideas to journalists.
- Mention the events at interfaith meetings; ask organizations to include a paragraph on the celebrations in their forthcoming newsletters and programs.
- Associations around the world could organize a special event for the Ayatheram Ghambar in October 2003, inviting community members and local politicians to attend.
- Get a proclamation from the Mayor, Governor, Senator, or other public official in your area commemorating the anniversary.

To coordinate the various aspects of this celebration in the Metropolitan New York area, a committee of the following individuals has been formed:

Mehru Cama mlcama@aaahawk.com Tamina Davar taminadavar@yahoo.com Homi Gandhi, Co-Chair homi_gandhi@usa.net Aysha Ghadiali aghad@hotmail.com karani_suzie@yahoo.com Susan Karani Shirin Kiamanesh skiamane@anchor-computer.com Gev Nentin, Co-Chair Gev.Nentin@chase.com Framroze Patel goolbai@comcast.net Prof. Kaikhosrov Irani, Advisor

The Committee's intention is to organize a main function in the New York area to showcase the Zoroastrian Culture and our communities. Details are being developed by the committee and will be announced as soon as possible. If you have any specific suggestion or special expertise or connections that you can offer to enrich this celebration, please feel free to contact any of the members of this Committee.

Additionally, sub-committees of three or four persons will be formed in five or six geographical areas around New York City to carry out the above activities locally.

This is a unique opportunity for the community and we should all contribute in every way we can. The committee looks forward to working with all of you. SPECIAL INTEREST ARTICLES:

2003 FEZANA AGM 4

CELEBRATING
PROFESSOR
K. D. IRANI

World Youth Congress



6

3

HIGHLIGHTS:

Papeti REGISTRATION FORM

MUKTAD PRAYERS
REGISTRATION
FORM 11

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

AUGUST 2003

ZAGNY SUMMER PICNIC

16 – 20 MUKTAD PRAYERS 23 ZAGNY PAPETI FUNCTION

3

SEPTEMBER 2003

6 IZA Persian Language Classes7 ZAGNY Religious Classes

ZAGNY'S ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC- AUGUST 3rd, 2003

Bring your favorite potluck picnic dish (enough to share with 8-10 people), and come have a fun time at Tomahawk Lake in New Jersey. Grills are available for those who wish to cook out. ZAGNY will provide watermelons, iced tea, hot tea and charcoal for the cook out. ZAGNY WILL HAVE A RESERVED PICNIC SPOT, SO LOOK FOR OUR "ZAGNY" SIGNS. Admission is \$9.00 per person and \$7.00 for children under 8 yrs. old (this price includes admission, parking, and use of the beach, swimming facilities, kiddie park and picnic tables). Some of the waterslides and boat rides will have a separate admission charge. The park opens at 9:00 AM, so come early.

Contact **Vispi & Sheroo Kanga** at (201) 227-1890 or **Toni & Viraf Ghadially** at (732) 972-6527 if you plan to attend. More details about Tomahawk Lake can be found on its website at www.tomahawklake.com.

MUKTAD PRAYERS - AUGUST 16th-20th, 2003

The ZAGNY community can participate in the Muktad Prayers for all five days from August 16th through August 20th, 2003. In order to accommodate workday schedules, ZAGNY is offering the community prayer services in several locations around the tri-state area with the generous help from some of our members. Our thanks go out to the host families who have graciously volunteered their homes and to the Priests who have kindly agreed to perform the prayers.

There will be a charge of \$5 per name, with a maximum of 6 names, to be recited during the Muktad prayer days. Our Mobeds will recite submitted names on all five days of the Muktad prayers at all locations. ZAGNY will have a lunch following the prayers on August 17th, 2003. Donations/contributions are appreciated. The collected monies from this event will go into the ZAGNY Critical Assistance Fund (our charity fund).

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

Date	Saturday,	Sunday,	Monday,	Tuesday,	Wednesday,	
	August 16th	August 17th	August 18th August 19th		August 20th	
Location	Queens, NY	Pomona, NY	Waldwick, NJ	Princeton Jct, NJ	Baldwin, NY	
Time	6:00PM	11:00AM	6:30 PM	6:30 PM	6:30 PM	
Hosted	Teshtar and	ZAGNY	Pam and	Jasmin and	Yasmin and	
Ву	Noshir Irani	(Pomona	Fali Shroff	Maneck Kotwal	Jamshed	
_		Darbe Mehr)			Ghadiali	

Please complete the form on page 11 of this newsletter. Should you have any other questions, please contact **Goolu Baria** at (203) 353-8651 or **Vispi and Sheroo Kanga** at (201) 227-1890.

PAPETI FUNCTION - AUGUST 23rd, 2003

ZAGNY will hold its Pateti function on August 23rd, 2003 at the Pomona Darbe Mehr. All are encouraged to arrive by 5 pm. The program will begin with an Atash Niayesh prayer at 5:30 pm. Other highlights of the program will be a Parsi comedy "Natak Noo Chetak," a special presentation by the DMZT trustees on future plans for the Darbe Mehr, and a short play performed by our own kids between the ages of 3 and 8. This will be followed by dinner and music. The registration form can be found on page 3.

The Pateti Function will be held on August 23, 2003 at the Pomona Darbe Mehr

ADULTS	-	\$25.00	NUMBER 	AMOUNT
NON-MEMBERS	-	\$35.00		
CHILDREN 5-15 YRS	-	\$15.00		
SENIOR CITIZENS	-	\$15.00		
DONATIONS:				
		TOTAL:		
NAME:				
DDRESS:				
EL. NO. HOME:		BUSINES	SS:	
E-MAIL ADDRESS:				

Princeton Junction, NJ 08550-0102

Reservations must be received by August 10th, 2003. All registrations will be non-refundable.

A \$15.00 per person / \$25.00 per family **surcharge** will apply to all registrations done either at the door or received within 48 hours prior to the function.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2003 FEZANA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2003 FEZANA Annual General Meeting was held in Boston, Massachuttes on May 24-25, 2003. For your

reference we have provided the following highlights:

ELECTION RESULTS

Vice President - **Mahrukh Motafram** Secretary - **Rita Engineer**, unopposed

Sincere thanks were given to our out going secretary, Arnavaz Sethna, for her dedication and hard work over the past four years.

FEZANA Executive 2003-2004

President - Firdosh Mehta
Vice President - Mahrukh Motafram
Treasurer - Rashid Mehin
Secretary - Rita Engineer
Asst. Secretary - Farrokh Mistree

Immediate Past

Secretary – **Arnavaz Sethna**

FINANCIAL REPORT - 2002

Accounts were presented and passed. The Funds and Investment ad hoc committee is to draw up investment policies for FEZANA. Due to active participation from our Standing and Ad Hoc committees, quite a few request for funds were discussed.

REPORTS

Member Associations gave brief reports on their various community activities. Standing Committee and Ad Hoc committee Chairs presented updates on their projects.

RETIREMENT COMMUNITY PROJECT

Interesting project! Yasmin Kevala and Celest Kheradi gave a presentation on the Sun City Retirement community in Sun City, Florida.

AGM - 2004 IN SUNNY FLORIDA!

In order for members to see the Sun City Retirement community, the next AGM will be held in Tampa, FL. One afternoon, members can go and check out the site, which is 1 hour away from Tampa.

RESTORATION OF HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS

Malcolm Deboo, Information Officer & Librarian, Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe, came all the way from London to present an old manuscript that has been brought from Navsari for restoration. He had a slide presentation that showed clearly the deterioration of this particular manuscript and also another two that are in need of repair/restoration. Later, we were allowed to view the manuscript closely. Malcolm handled it with tissues, rather than his bare hands, as the oil from his hands would be another deteriorating agent. Fascinating piece of work!!!

WORLD BODY

The FEZANA World Body Working Group presented their report. Based on the outcome of the meeting in Mumbai in January 2003 and communication from Rustom Dubash of the WZO, the Working Group presented a model for One World Body. It consists of one umbrella entity with two independent arms. One arm would truly represent individuals and the other federations.

The Working Group informed the members present that they will submit their final report, which would include draft constitutions and by laws for the three entities, by June 30, 2003. The Working Group recommended that once it had filed its report further action be undertaken by the elected leadership of the FEZANA, FPZAI, WZO, ZTFE, etc. The Working Group was thanked by FEZANA for their hard work and effort to bring about the progress that has been achieved so far. The Working Group report was well received. The presentation is on the FEZANA Web.

NORTH AMERICAN YOUTH CONGRESS

Afreed Mistry, Youth Congress Chair gave a progress report on the upcoming Youth Congress to be held in Toronto from July 24-27, 2003. The youth have done an outstanding job bringing this all together. The "Nexus 2003" Website for the Congress is well done, and so far approximately 250 individuals have registered to attend.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2003 FEZANA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (CONTINUED)

UN NGO STATUS / UNESCO CELEBRATIONS

FEZANA's participation in UN NGO-related activities regarding UNESCO's declaration of 2003 Year as the 3000th Anniversary of Zoroastrianism was presented by Homi Gandhi. The anticipated participation of the Zarathushti community in the US & Canada is being coordinated by Dolly Dastoor. Behram Pastakia and other Zarathushti youth's contributions towards these activities were also recognized.

Z-SPORTS

The Zoroastrian Sports Committee announced the next Zarathushti Games in Vancouver, Canada, hosted by ZSBC at the UBC campus during the 4th of July week 2004.

NA ZARATHUSHTI DIRECTORY

Funds were budgeted for the updating of ACCESS & ADOBE software to make PDF files with some security precautions.

YOUNG MOBEDS @ THE YOUTH CONFERENCE

FEZANA / ZYNA's sponsorships of Mobeds Mehernosh Bhada, Darayus Bajan and Ardeshir Hormozyari to attend the next Youth Congress were announced.

FUNDS APPROVED

Funds to partially support the following worldwide activities were approved by the Members Board.

- 1. North American Mobed Council's request for preparation of the book: UNDERSTANDING & PRACTICE OF OBSEQUIES" (Ritual performance of Funeral Rites)
- 2. Ms. Bachi Karkaria's multimedia project: THE PARSI CULTURAL IDENTITY.
- 3. Addition funds were passed to set up Academic Education Scholarships of \$10,000, besides the \$5,000 from The Kheradi Endowment, for the 2003-2004 academic year. Dr. & Mrs. Kheradi's magnanimous donations were acknowledged with thanks.

REQUESTS FOR FUNDING OF PROJECTS FORWARDED TO MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS VIA PRINT AND CDs and other brochures were presented for:

- 1 CAPT. S. J. CONTRACTORS project to re-enact and construct the Exodus of early Zoroastrian settlers to India from Iran, in identical sea-going vessels.
- 2. THE UPCOMING 3rd WORLD ZOROASTRIAN YOUTH CONGRESS in Pune, India.
- 3. World Zarathushti Cultural Foundation of Dr. Homi Dhalla, regarding the Sanjan / Bahrot Caves Excavation and preservation project.
- 4. WZO Youth Wing's PROJECT UDVADA REPORT, and support for their community Centre, Dispensary and other activities.
- 5. Film production on ZARATHUSHTIS IN NORTH AMERICA by Tenaz Dubash.

THANK YOU!!

ZAGBA members did an outstanding job of hosting the AGM....everything went off like clockwork!! Also, a very special thanks to Sherazade Mehta, president of ZAGBA. On Saturday night, ZAGBA entertained the attendees with their local talent and a delicious dinner. It was a pleasure to see our Z community thriving in Boston!

Before ending the meeting on Sunday afternoon, President Firdosh Mehta advised the members that Dinshaw Joshi, Chair of the Awards Committee and a very active participant in FEZANA, was recently admitted into hospital due to severe breathing problems. He requested everyone to send positive thoughts to Dinshaw Joshi for his well-being and speedy recovery.

CELECRATING THELIFE OF PROFESSOR KAIKHOSROV D. IRANI

WRITTEN BY: AYSHA AND YASMIN GHADIALI

We are writing to all ZAGNY members on behalf of an exciting new project that will highlight and celebrate the accomplished life of our very own and very beloved **Professor Kaikhosrov D. Irani**. Currently, a documentary including a series of interviews with the Professor and a personal narrative life history has been filmed and edited. But, in order for us to truly honor ZAGNY's own Professor, post-production and distribution of these videos must be completed. We are therefore asking that all ZAGNY members be part of this effort and give generously to a project that will benefit audiences both young and old, Zoroastrian and non-Zoroastrian, about the life and times of our premier teacher and philosopher.

This project started as a way to honor Professor K. D. Irani, by creating a forum for his words of wisdom to be captured on tape and made available to the public. Phase I, which included the filming and interviews, was made possible through the estate of the Late Merhraban Farhangi and was completed in May 1998, in Vancouver. Phase II, which is the editing of the tapes, is currently in progress in Los Angeles. Phase III will be the post-production and duplication stage, for which ZAGNY has decided to help with a contribution and contributions from its members to help defray the costs.

The final program will be made into four VHS (depending on the edited version) or 2 DVDs. It starts with a discussion with Professor K. D. Irani — his life experiences, childhood, his parents, his experiences with Einstein and others. The next segment will be a discussion on Zoroastrianism — the basics of the religion, and a more advanced segment. The final segment will be the Professor's original contribution to philosophy, and what he calls the "Domains of Belief." The final version will be given to Professor Irani for his approval before copies are made. There will also be a presentation in New York to honor Professor Irani when the project is launched to the public.

It is our hope that this project will produce an excellent resource not only for Zarathushtis, but also for other interested markets such as his students, university departments of philosophy and theology, and libraries. The editing will be completed by mid-June, which leaves the post-production and duplication to follow in the next two months. In order for this project to run successfully we need ZAGNY members to take part and donate generously!

- All sponsors who contribute \$100 or more will receive a complementary set of VHS or DVD of the project.
- All sponsors who contribute \$1,000 or more will be acknowledged at the end of the program along with the Late Merhraban Farhangi, ZSBC, and ZAGNY.

It is now time for us to give back to the man who has given us all so much. It is time to honor a person who has enriched the minds and the social well being of our community by challenging us to truly think about our spirituality, our lives as Zarathushtis, and as contributors to the human race.

Please make checks payable to ZAGNY, with a memo KDI Video Project, and mail to:

Yasmin Ghadiali 2686 Belcher Street Baldwin, NY 11510-3937

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The 3rb World Zoroastrian Youth Congress

Pune - India 27th - 31st Dec 2003

ORGANISED BY:

"Zoroastrian Youth Association" (ZYA) of Pune under the auspices of "The Federation of Zoroastrian Youth Associations" (FOZYA) India, in association with the Bombay Parsi Panchayet (B.P.P) and the Poona Parsi Panchayet. (P.P.P)

VENUE:

The Taj Blue Diamond, Pune, India

DATES:

27th to 31st December 2003

Registration and main conference program at the Taj Blue Diamond, Pune, during the day. Evening program / dinner with local Zoroastrians at other venues.

30th and 31st December 2003

Home stay with local Zoroastrian families for overseas delegates. Sightseeing and visits arranged for the 31st for all interested delegates. New Years Eve dinner and dance organized for all interested delegates.

1st to 3rd January 2004

Optional pilgrimage tour to Iranshah Atash Behram, Udwada, Sanjan and Bahrot Caves.

ACCOMODATION:

5 Star Hotel Accommodation - Taj Blue Diamond, Pune

Basic Accommodation - Dormitory Accommodation at Dr. Mrs. Erin N. Nagarwalla School Hostel. Own Accommodation - arrangements will have to be done by delegates.

DELEGATION FEES: [Early bird offer applicable till the 21st of August 2003]

1. 5 Star Accommodation

Single Occupancy Rs.20,000
Double Occupancy Rs.15,000
Triple occupancy Rs.12,000

2. Basic Accommodation / own accommodation

Rs. 3,500/-

These rates include the conference program, 3 breakfasts, 4 lunches and one dinner at the 5 star hotel, and 4 dinners at the other venues.

Note: BPP has offered to sponsor Rs 1500/- per Indian Delegate who will then pay Rs.2000/- only as delegation fees. (For conditions email info@wzyc.org)

PROGRAM: [details subject to change]

Meet Fellow Zoroastrians	Jashan	Fashion Show
Hear out eminent Zoroastrians	Quizzes, Fun and games	Exhibition
Participate and express	Music, Song and dance	Delicious Parsee Cuisine
yourself	Audio-Visual Presentation	Sightseeing / visits
	Group Discussions	
	Demonstrations	

Fellow Zoroastrians, you will ◆Remember yesterday ◆Experience today ◆Look forward to tomorrow

All information pertaining to this event is also available on our website **http://www.wzyc.org**. Any further inquiries can be directed to the email address info@wzyc.org or Mr.Sam Motafaram on 91-020-6833897.



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MUKTAD PRAYERS 2003

Please complete this form in BLOCK letters with the correct status circled for each name and return this form by **AUGUST 6, 2003**, to:

Vispi Kanga,
Attn: Muktad Prayers
147 12th Street
Cresskill, NJ 07626
Checks should be made payable to ZAGNY.

	3	e following names in the e erewith my contribution o	J 1 J	J	•		
	I/We will be at	tending the luncheon on	August 17	7 th , 2003, the t	otal # of people	attending with n	ne
	I/We will not b	e attending the luncheor	n on Augus	st 17 th , 2003, p	lease recite the	following names	
☐ I/We will be attending the prayers on				_ (insert date) at the(insert name) h			ne) home.
	urs truly,						
PR	INT YOUR FULL	NAME	TELEPHO	NE NUMBER	E-MAIL ADI	DRESS	
		Name of the Deceased			Names of His/H	Her Father/Husba	and
1	E O Oi B K			ЕОВ			
2	E O Oi B K			ЕОВ			
3	E O Oi B K			ЕОВ			
4	E O Oi B K			ЕОВ			
5	E O Oi B K			ЕОВ			
6	E O Oi B K			ЕОВ			

The names of the deceased are always recited together with their father/husband's name along with their status, i.e. Ervad, Osta, Osti, Behdin or Khurd, as per Zoroastrian custom. No surnames are recited in the prayers.

- E = Ervad (male who is/was a Navar)
- O = Osta (male from Athornan or priestly family but not a Navar)
- Oi = Osti (female from Arhornan family)
- B = Behdin (male/female from Behdin or non-priestly family)
- K = Khurd (whose Navjote has not been performed)

NO NAMES WILL BE ACCEPTED OVER THE PHONE OR ONCE THE PRAYERS ARE STARTED DURING THE MUKTAD DAYS.



ZAGNY 106 Pomona Road Suffern, NY 10901

E-Mail zagny_secretary@lycos.com

Phone 845.362.2104 Fax: 201.670.6763



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