



## ISSUE 17

## ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW YORK

## APRIL/MAY 2004 NEWSLETTER

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### REVLON RUN WALK

May 1, 2004

The **Revlon Run Walk** to fight women's cancers will be held on **May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004**. ZAGNY has participated in this for the last 2 years. The event starts in Times Square and ends in Central Park. To register, go to the Revlon Run/Walk website at [www.revlonrunwalk.com](http://www.revlonrunwalk.com) and register as an individual by clicking the green box in the upper left hand corner of the screen. Registering at this site requires paying the \$25.00 registration fee online, so have your credit card ready. When registering please put down our team #. We are team #1109 Zoroastrian Association of Greater NY. Once you have registered, you can start pursuing donations. Complete details on where we will meet will be given to you via email (once you register) by your team captain Usheen Davar. Any questions should be directed to Usheen at [usheen.davar@dowjones.com](mailto:usheen.davar@dowjones.com).

### PERSIAN PARADE FOR NOWRUZ CELEBRATIONS

WRITTEN BY: *Homi D. Gandhi*

In 2003, New York City Mayor Bloomberg issued the proclamation declaring Nowruz Holidays. In 2004, the very first Persian Parade for Nowruz celebrations was held!

Until 2003 no national or city leader had issued a proclamation for this holiday recognizing the diverse communities, which celebrate. And it was a groundbreaking statement about unity and diversity of New York City when all communities celebrating Nowruz Holidays marched on March 27, 2004 on the Madison Avenue.

It was a very colorful parade. Just as the parade was about to commence at 10 o'clock in the morning on that day, the rain showers suddenly stopped and the vibrant colors of the new season came out. There were 14 main floats in the form of Horse-driven carriages, first time such kind of floats has been used. There were many people marching with groups of dancers and music.

There were School Marching Bands.

It was truly a multicultural parade of many ethnic groups. Besides Zoroastrians, the parade included Ghajar, Assyrian, Armenian, Kurds, Belochi, Bakhteyari, Jewish, Azeri, Afghans and Banderi groups. It is estimated that over a thousand persons marched in the parade. After the opening group of Parade Dignitaries, Marching Band, and Historical and Cultural floats of Persia, the First Ethnic Float was the Zoroastrian float.

The ZOROASTRIAN FLOAT included Nariman Deboo carrying the Golden Asho Farohar, followed by banners displaying "Good Thoughts, Good Words, and Good Deeds", and Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America (FEZANA). A white horse-driven carriage, carrying a person in Mobed dress with 2 young boys and 2 young girls with the insignias in their hands, followed this. Behind the carriage, a large group of (continued on page 4)

### ZAGNY BOARD:

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**We are pleased to announce that the online registration for the XIII North American Congress is open and already in progress since March 21, 2004.**

**LOCATION:** The congress will be held in San Francisco Bay Area from December 29, 2004 to January 1, 2005. The location chosen for the Congress is the city of Santa Clara in the heart of Silicon Valley. The venue is the charming Santa Clara Marriott Hotel, a California mission-style hotel with poolside cabanas, plus high-rise tower rooms set amongst a sprawling garden, with vistas of the San Francisco Bay area. The staff is friendly and ready to welcome us. Most of the public rooms have been reserved for the exclusive use of the Congress. The hotel is located only 4 miles north of the San Jose International Airport and 26 miles south of the San Francisco International Airport.

**HOTEL ROOMS:** The rooms are available at a rate of \$ 69.00 (plus taxes) per night, for up to 4 occupants per room. These rates are valid from December 24, 2004 to January 5, 2005.

**PROGRAM:** The organizers have planned a varied and interesting program revolving around the theme: " **Being Zarathushti: Looking at Issues; Searching for Answers**"

Some of the topics for discussion will be:

- Relevance of Zoroastrianism in the 21st Century
- Zoroastrianism in the Internet Age
- Zoroastrian Archaeology and efforts to preserve our heritage
- What we need to do to assure the future of Zoroastrianism in North America
- Inter-faith marriages- a discussion of issues
- The message of the Gathas

Prominent community members, university professors, scholars as well as speakers from different backgrounds and perspectives have been invited to discuss the various topics. There will also be a special focus on topics of interest for the youth.

**ENTERTAINMENT:** There will be entertainment and activities to suit all age groups, including youth dance, a night of special Persian food and entertainment, and a Gala New Years Eve Dinner-Dance. All events have been reasonably priced for adults and youth to attend and enjoy.

**OTHER EVENTS:** Entrepreneurs, artists and businesses will have a place to display their wares at the Z-Bazaar. This is an excellent opportunity to reach a large and varied audience.

In addition, the World Zoroastrian Chamber of Commerce (WZCC) will hold a one-day Business Conference on Dec. 28, 2004 and a Business Lunch on Dec. 31, 2004.

All of us on the Congress Organizing Committee and ZANC look forward to welcoming our fellow-Zarathushtis to the Bay Area. Come join us and help make this event a success. Take advantage of the reasonable rates and the pleasant California winter weather.

**For further information and registration, visit our web site: [www.zanc.org/congress](http://www.zanc.org/congress) or <https://www.regonline.com/checkin.asp?EventId=9704>**

On this site you can register for the Congress, find instructions on how to reserve your hotel room, book your car or reserve tables for the Z-Bazaar.

**Take advantage of our Early Bird registration prices valid until June 30, 2004.**

**WZCC NEW YORK CHAPTER MEETING**  
**May 23, 2004 - 12-4 PM**

**HEALTH WELLNESS**

*Unique opportunity to meet experts...  
they will bring you up to date of innovations  
and techniques in their fields.*

**SPEAKERS**

Dr. Yasmin Ghadiali, Dentist

Mr. Vispi Kanga, Kanga Associates (Skin Care)

Dr. Satish Modi, Ophthalmologist

Prof. Khursheed Navder, PhD, (Nutrition and Food Sciences)

Lunch will be served at 12:00PM. Kindly RSVP:

- Arnaz Maneckshana  
(201)712-4615 or [amanecksha@aol.com](mailto:amanecksha@aol.com)
- Rusi Gandhi  
(973)263-9619 or [rusi@garden.net](mailto:rusi@garden.net)
- Noshir Dutia  
(973)328-2881 or [noshd@hotmail.com](mailto:noshd@hotmail.com)

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

APRIL 2004	
25	<b>Social Justice and Ethics in Zoroastrian Law and Thought</b> (details in this newsletter)
MAY 2004	
1	<b>Revlon Run/Walk **</b> (details on the back page)
1	<b>IZA Persian Class****</b> (10 AM for Adults, 11 AM for children)
2	<b>ZAGNY Religious Classes ****</b> (1 PM START)
15	<b>The Rummy Game</b>
23	<b>WZCC Health Wellness Meeting</b> (details in this newsletter)
JUNE 2004	
1	<b>ZAGNY SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE</b>
5	<b>IZA Persian Class****</b> (10 AM for Adults, 11 AM for children)
6	<b>ZAGNY Religious Classes ****</b> (1 PM START)
23-27	<b>Ivy F. Gandhi Youth Camp</b> (details to be provided in a future newsletter)

*Please provide any contact changes or personal announcements to [zagny\\_secretary@lycos.com](mailto:zagny_secretary@lycos.com).*

### CHANGE IN CONTACT INFORMATION

Usheen Davar  
1485 First Avenue, Apartment 5C  
New York, NY 10021  
212-472-3171

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ranvir and Shirin Sinha  
14 Benedek Road  
Princeton, NJ 08540

Shahrookh and Aban Bodhanwala  
35-20 Leverich Street, # C 742  
Jackson Heights, NY 11372

### CONGRATULATIONS

Arnaz Dotivala on her achievement of being the first Zoroastrian to be inducted into 'Hair Americas'. This is an elite group of the National Cosmetology Association of America.

### OUR CONDOLENCES TO

Linda and Darius and Keyan and Tara. Morvarid Jamshidian, mother of Darius Jamshidian, passed away on January 4, 2004 in Connecticut.

Rohinton and Mahrukh Cama and family. Piloo Cama, mother of Rohinton Cama passed away on April 4, 2004 in New Jersey.

## NAVROZE FUNCTION RAFFLE

A big thank you goes out to Neville Commissariat for using his aggressive sales skills and leadership in selling an overwhelming amount of raffle tickets. ZAGNY would like to appreciate the donation of the raffle items by Virasp and Kamal Davar and family. Lastly, thank you to all the other volunteers for helping with the sale of tickets.

## ZAGNY SCHOLARSHIPS

ZAGNY invites applications for financial assistance (Scholarship/Loan) for the academic year 2004-2005 from its members who are studying at institutions in the United States. Applicants should be full-time students. The last date for filing an application is **June 1, 2004**. Application forms and information can be obtained from **Cyrus F. Hirjibehedin**, 135 Executive Drive, Manhasset Hills, NY 11040 or [cfh6@columbia.edu](mailto:cfh6@columbia.edu).

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

ZAMWI is participating in the first ever National Day of Interfaith Youth Service on Saturday, April 24, 2004. In 15 cities nationwide, youth and young adults of many different faith traditions are coming together to make a difference in the wider community.

In Washington, young people will work together to build the Interfaith House, which is a partnership project of DC Habitat for Humanity, the InterFaith Conference, and United Religions Initiative DC. This very special interfaith Habitat build is a half-day commitment. One crew works in the morning and another in the afternoon, with everyone meeting for a luncheon with dialogue and other interfaith activities.

This is a wonderful opportunity to engage in a half-day of hands-on service while learning more about diverse cultures and faith traditions in a positive environment. Those desiring to join, please contact [bpastakia@aol.com](mailto:bpastakia@aol.com).

## ARE YOU CELEBRATING YOUR 25<sup>th</sup> or 50<sup>th</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY?

If you are celebrating any of the above important milestones, our New York State Senator (38th District), Mr. **Thomas Morahan**, would like to commemorate this event. He has requested such information from us to commemorate your achievement by passing a special Legislative Resolution in the New York State Senate. If you would like to commemorate your special event, please send details with your full names, address, and event and anniversary date to [homi\\_gandhi@usa.net](mailto:homi_gandhi@usa.net).



## PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE PERSIAN DAY PARADE

### Photographs provided by: Hanoz Gandhi

Zoroastrians paraded under the banner of the Zoroastrian Community of New York Area.

According to the Police estimates, over 8,000 persons lined up the Madison Avenue from 41st Street to 27th Street where the parade ended. The Zoroastrian group was estimated to be between 70 to 90 persons and it included a visitor from Mumbai and Ardeshir Bakhtiani, Vice President, ZAMWI. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each participant who made the Parade a big success! Each individual did a wonderful job in coming together at such a short notice and made our Community proud by your participation. Thanks. Let us prepare for a bigger participation at the next year's parade.





## PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE PERSIAN DAY PARADE



## DONATIONS

CRITICAL ASSISTANCE FUND	
<b>2004 TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,673.00</b>
Kaikhosrov and Piroja Irani	500.00
	100.00
Minu and Behroz Dutia	100.00
Sarosh and Nergish Hodiwalla	21.00
GENERAL FUND	
<b>2004 TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5632.61</b>
Kaikhosrov and Piroja Irani	1000.00
United Way - Nawaz H. Merchant	93.00
United Way of NY city	90.93
United Way - Tinaz L. Hakim	78.08
Nari and Dinoo Dastur	50.00
United Way - Behin Yektashenas	46.50
Noshir and Kashmira Dutia	25.00
Rusi and Piroja Press	25.00
Paul Johnson	20.00
NEW BUILDING FUND	
<b>2004 TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,914.00</b>
Rohinton and Mahrukh Cama	100.00
Navroz Gandhi	61.00
Rusi and Shernaz Sethna	50.00
SCHOLARSHIP FUND	
<b>2004 TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,335.00</b>
LIBRARY FUND	
<b>2004 TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 130.00</b>

## SURVIVING CORPORATE DOWNSIZING

WZCC meeting was held on Sunday, February 29<sup>th</sup>. The speakers were **Manek Dustoor, K.H., Kurush Maneckshana and Firdosh Mehta**. Each speaker shared personal experiences and made recommendations as to how one can be better prepared to manage professional and personal challenges if downsized. Pertinent suggestions were: constantly evaluate and upgrade skills, participate in networking events on a regular basis, stay upbeat, embrace and adapt to changes. Associate change with new opportunities and become successful.

WZCC sincerely thanks the guest speakers for a very interesting afternoon. It also wishes to thank Sheroo Kanga for the delicious refreshments. Finally, thank you to our members and guests for your attendance. We hope to see you again at the May 23, 2004 meeting HEALTH WELLNESS.

For information on WZCC

**Rusi Gandhi** (973) 263-9619  
**Noshir Dutia** (973) 328-2881  
**Arnaz Maneckshana** (201) 712-4615.

*This newsletter will be made public on the ZAGNY web-site. If you do not want your personal information to appear on the website, please do not submit it to the newsletter for publication.*

## SUN CITY CENTER GETAWAY!

Sun City Center (SCC) Getaway! This event will be after the FEZANA AGM, from May 30 to June 1, 04. If you prefer, a longer or shorter stay is acceptable. This getaway will be a time of sharing for our ideas about retirement and experiencing togetherness in a relaxed environment.

**About SCC:** Sun City Center is a 5,000-acre development near Tampa, Florida, with high quality new and pre-owned homes ranging in price from \$ 50,000 to \$450,000. SCC is Florida's premier "planned affordable community" with all the amenities for a healthy lifestyle, ready to enjoy and be enhanced to fit our needs.

### **SCC offers:**

- Low cost of living
- No state income taxes
- A sub-tropical climate with ocean breezes
- An ideal location - Walt Disney World is only 90 minutes away

Accommodations have been arranged with the SCC Inn. As "Preferred Guests", our special rate is only \$ 39 per night per room with 4-person capacity. Accommodations include:

- A bus from the FEZANA AGM hotel (AmeriSuites/Tampa Airport Hotel, via scenic Bayshore Boulevard, through St Petersburg, and over the Sunshine Skyway to SCC Inn.
- Complimentary breakfast each morning
- Use of many of the recreational amenities
- Discounted rounds of golf for two
- Dinner and entertainment on Sunday May 30, 04 at 6.30 p.m. (for a nominal charge)
- A guided tour of SCC on the morning of Monday May 31st (Memorial Day)
- A guided tour of the surrounding area on Tuesday June 1.

**To register for this event, please send this form and a deposit of US\$50 for "Sun City Center Inn" by May 1, 2004 to:**

**Yasmin Kevala**  
 8812 Tuckerman Lane  
 Potomac, MD 20854  
[yaskeval@aol.com](mailto:yaskeval@aol.com)  
 240-432-0006.

**In celebration of the UNESCO-declared  
"3,000th Anniversary of Zoroastrian Culture"**

The Zoroastrian Community of Greater New York  
Presents:

A Seminar on  
**"Social Justice & Ethics in  
Zoroastrian Law & Thought"**

Featuring:

**Kaikhosrov D. Irani**, Professor Emeritus, City University of New York (CUNY)

**P. Oktor Skjaervø**, Aga Khan Professor of Iranian, Harvard University

**H. Zvi Szubin**, Professor of Jewish Law & Comparative Legal Studies (ret.),  
Hebrew University of Jerusalem & CUNY

Moderated by: **Khorshed Jungalwala**, Chair of the FEZANA Publications Committee

**Location: Arbab Rustam Guiv Darbe Mehr  
106 Pomona Road, Suffern, New York 10901**

**Sunday, April 25, 2004  
1:30pm-4pm**

RSVP to [karani\\_suzie@yahoo.com](mailto:karani_suzie@yahoo.com) by **April 15, 2004**  
For directions, please see: [www.zagny.org](http://www.zagny.org)  
Or call: (212) 316-8656

The event is free and open to the public.



**ZAGNY**  
106 Pomona Road  
Suffern, NY 10901

**E-Mail**  
[zagny\\_secretary@lycos.com](mailto:zagny_secretary@lycos.com)

**Phone:**  
845.362.2104

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*See us at:*

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