



### Issue 26 - December 2005 Newsletter

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sherazad@zagny.org

FERZIN PATEL  
ferzin@zagny.org

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michel@zagny.org

#### NEW YEAR'S EVE FUNCTION

December 31, 2005



#### ZAGNY is Throwing the Most Exciting New Year's Eve Celebration and You're Invited!!

Join us usher in the New Year with friends n family as we prance n dance and countdown to 2006 with fun, food, games n music. The program will start at 7 pm. So folks, start your New Year's resolution to "Not Procrastinate" early this year!! Please complete the attached registration form (**on page 7**) and mail it to reach us by **December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005**. If you have any questions about the event, please contact any of the board members.

#### ZOROASTRIAN INTERFAITH GROUP (ZIG)

#### SPONSORS AN EVENING OF LEARNING AND SHARING

#### BLENDING CULTURES AND COMMUNITY

Submitted by Pearl Satarawala

Zoroastrian Interfaith Group (ZIG) of ZAGNY sponsored an evening of electrifying, thought-provoking and heart-warming speeches and discussion. **Viraf Ghadially**, facilitator of ZIG, welcomed the guests to the first open community forum, "Blending Cultures and Community" and explained the purpose of ZIG which was formed in 2003 to encourage intermarried couples to stay involved in the community, to form friendships and to serve as a catalyst for dialogue and discussion. The ZIG group meets periodically several times a year in a friendly atmosphere to discuss issues and challenges that pertain to intermarried couples. All who are interested are most welcome to join.

The esteemed and honorable **Professor Kaikhosrov D. Irani** began the forum with his speech on "**The Variety of Religious Commitments**," noting that in the ancient world religions were "tribal" in nature. He pointed out that Zarathustra was the first to preach a universal message of moral good. For example, in Yasna 13 Zarathustra admonishes his audience to think with their own minds, that is, as humans, not as members of a particular tribe. The choice all humans must make, according to Prof. Irani, is between Spenta Mainu—the Spirit of Truth—and the corruption arising from the Spirit of Evil and Negation. In what came to be a recurring theme during the later presentations, Prof. Irani referred to the Prophet Zarathustra asking his own daughter, "Have you made the choice?" The

implication is that religion, like ethics, is a matter of personal choice and commitment, not a matter of the "tribe" into which one is born.



**Speakers at the ZIG event:**  
**Dina Thakarar, Joseph Ball,**  
**Jasmine Dukandar, Khorshed**  
**F. Junglawala and Prof.**  
**Kaikhosrov D. Irani.**

**Khorshed F. Jungalwala** spoke next on “**Developments of Gender Roles in Zarathushti Society Through the Ages.**” Giving specific examples from as early as the time of the Prophet Zarathustra, through the Achamenid Period of Cyrus the Great, the Parthians, Sassanians, the changes wrought by Muslim invaders, and on to the migration to India leading finally to the modern period, Mrs. Jungalwala observed that the relative role of men and women has been more an ebb and flow than a steady movement toward gender equality. One constant, however, has been the presence of outstanding women who have served as role models to others. As a long-time leader in the Zarathushti Community, Khorshed Jungalwala is certainly among those role models!

Three members of ZIG continued the forum with speeches. The first was **Dina Thakarar**. Dina addressed the topic “**Sometimes it’s not enough to just have faith,**” and spoke about her journey towards Navjote initiation at the age of 27 years. One could only be impressed by Ms. Thakarar’s sincerity and honesty as she described her experiences growing up in an intermarried family. She commented that she was raised in a “family that explored religion” rather than one that “imposed religion.” Dina was hurt and dismayed that she was ostracized from entering an Agiary when visiting family in Punchgani, India. In her heart and in her life, she strongly believes she has upheld the core beliefs of Zoroastrianism, “*Humata, Hukata, Huvarashta.*” After much soul searching she has come to the realization that “faith is not enough” hence, her decision to formalize her commitment and faith by asking for the Navjote initiation ceremony. Dina looks forward to raising her children and eventually her grandchildren in the tenets of our great religion.

**Joseph Ball** took the podium next. Joe has been a devoted student and teacher of World Religions over the past thirty-five years. Joe graduated with a Master’s in Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School in 1980. He and his wife Pearl Satarawala are members of ZIG. Mr. Ball began by stating that his speech was “just one man’s opinion” on the topic “Are all religions the same?” He defined “religion” as a “set of beliefs through which adherents are provided with an opportunity to find meaning in life by recognizing the existence of that which they consider Sacred.” While “the Sacred” always connotes a transcendent reality that is, by definition, ineffable, Mr. Ball suggested that all of the major religious traditions recognize that the Sacred must in some way become immanent—manifesting in particular in revelations experienced by prophets and mystics. While excessive focus on dogma and ritual can cause religions to become divisive, Joe expressed the belief that focusing on the “Divine Light” that underlies all religions is a way to see what is universal and unifying in all faith traditions.

Sixteen year old **Jasmine Dukandar** concluded the night with a beautiful, personal testimony of her experience being raised in an intermarried household. Her speech was titled “**Blending Cultures,**” and Jasmine explained how she has been immersed in religious classes for both her Catholic background and Zoroastrian background since the age of five years. Jasmine spoke eloquently as she explained her desire to learn and experience as much as she could from both sides of her family heritage and she gave credit to her parents for guiding her in this direction and allowing her to become the young woman that she is today. She spoke confidently as she faced the audience and challenged the issues surrounding intermarriage in the Zoroastrian community. She touched many people with her honesty and sincerity and it was obvious to everyone who listened to her speak, that Jasmine is a person with deep integrity, commitment and high moral values.

Many questions and comments followed the speeches in the “Open Interactive session” Several were addressed to young Jasmine who answered them adeptly. From the scholarly and witty remarks of Professor Irani to the personal reflections of the ZIG members, it was an uplifting and memorable evening of learning. The entire program was put together by a few core ZIG volunteer members.

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**SCHOLARSHIP:** The FEZANA Performing and Creative Arts Scholarship (P&CAS): Financial support is available to Zarathustis who are performing artists in music, drama, etc. or practice other creative art forms like literature, poetry, fine arts, sculpture, painting, etc. The purpose of the scholarship is to enable the recipients to study with experts in their field and thus fine tune and enhance their talent and capabilities, BUT NOT FOR BASIC EDUCATION IN THE ABOVE FIELDS. Deadline **March 31 2006**. For further information contact SHERAZADE F. MEHTA, 5400 Preston Oaks Rd, #3048, Dallas TX 75354 (U.S.A.). Tel: (972) 385-4847. E-mail: Sherazadem@yahoo.com.

**PLEA FOR HELP:** Mehernosh Firoze Daruwalla--born 12/18/62 in Bharuch, Gujarat is suffering from Multiple Sclerosis. He is totally dependent on others for his day-to-day routine. His mother, Soonamai is getting on in age and has ailments of her own and finds it difficult to nurse Mehernosh and see to his daily needs. A one shift aayah would cost approximately Rs.4,500 a month, but the family is unable to afford one due to their dire financial condition. If any help can be rendered to meet this need, the family will be very grateful. Checks can be made out to “ZAGNY Critical Assistance Fund”---in the memo section please indicate “Mehernosh Daruwalla.”

## ZAPANJ Visits ZAGNY November 6, 2005

November 6<sup>th</sup> religious class was packed with events. About forty guests from ZAPANJ chartered a bus and visited us. The warmth of friendship between members of the two associations made up for the lack of heat at our Darbe Mehr that afternoon. **Cyrus Toorkey** from ZAPANJ led the adults into an interesting discussion on the history of our religion—making it come alive for both, the history buffs and novices alike. This was followed by the Atash-Niyaesh prayers led by **Ervad Pervez Patel, Noshir Karanjia, Sam Sethna, Poruz Khambatta** and **Karl Khambatta**.

Our ZAPANJ guests presented ZAGNY with a lovely plaque of Persepolis warriors with Achaemenid royal inscriptions. It will be displayed in a prominent spot at our Darbe Mehr. We hope to continue to have joint ventures between these two groups in the future.



### Halloween Parade:

Witches, ghouls, pirates and princesses came out in full force at our annual Halloween parade this year. All costumed marchers (young and young-at-heart) received spooky pails filled with goodies (Thanks **Ferzin!!**). Minnie Mouse (**Natasha Dusaj**), Lady pirate (**Farah Randelia**) and Darth Vader (**Shawn Bengali**) won the best costume awards.

### Katrina Relief Effort:

We'd like to recognize all those who assisted in the collection effort for Hurricane Katrina victims. **Teshtar Irani** helped to co-ordinate the collections and many volunteers including our guests from ZAPANJ assisted with packing and assembling the boxes. Our sincere thanks to **Behram Shahparast** of Bombino Express for volunteering to deliver the goods at no charge and for supporting this community effort.



**WZCC-NY CHAPTER:** Ms. **Zareen Karani Araoz**, President of ZWIN and Managing Cultures spoke on *The Challenges of Managing Across Cultures* on November 13<sup>th</sup>. This lively, interactive session discussed ways to enhance our effectiveness and communication as we work across cultures, and some of the subtle cultural issues that critically affect the success of our ventures. WZCC-NY chapter thanked **Niloufer** and **Edul Daver** for hosting the speaker and arranging this meeting. For more information on WZCC-NY Chapter, please contact, Rusi Gandhi, rusi@garden.net, Noshir Dutia, noshd@hotmail.com, Arnaz Maneckshana, amanecksha@aol.com, Avan Patel, avan.p.patel@mhn.com.

WZCC- NY chapter also honored **Niloufer** and **Edul Daver** on September 18th during solo performance by **Kayhan Irani**. They have been a pillar of strength for the WZCC worldwide and NY chapter in its formative years. The success of WZCC-NY Chapter is to a great extent a measure of their devotion to the cause and their goodwill. Niloufer prepared WZCC-NY chapter banner. They were presented with flowers and plaque.

**Rusi Gandhi**, WZCC-NY Chapter Chairman delivered a keynote address during Navratri function of Parsippany India Association (PIA) on October 15th to over 800 members at Parsippany High School Gymnasium. He asked members to volunteer their services in helping PIA grow as he wished everyone a Happy Diwali and Nutan Varsha Abhinandan. Mr. Gandhi is on the advisory board of Parsippany India Association.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT:** We would like to express our gratitude to **Behram Shahparast** for helping ZAGNY out at our time of need with immediate delivery of sukhad from India, shipping carom boards for use of ZAGNY members free of cost and also with the Katrina shipment.

If you would like to announce an event that will occur within the next 3 months or to make an general announcement in the ZAGNY newsletter, please email us at [secretary@zagny.org](mailto:secretary@zagny.org)



## DONATIONS

CRITICAL ASSISTANCE FUND	
Khursheed and Shailendra Dusaj	101
GENERAL FUND	
Dalal, Hormaz	50
Davar, Virasp - United Way	78.66
Davar, Virasp - United Way – through Pfizer Inc	415.51
NEW BUILDING FUND	
Hormuzdiar, Noshir Ervad (Ashodad from Nariman Deboo & family)	500
Madon, Aloo (in memory of her late husband Firoze Madon)	100
SCHOLARSHIP FUND	
Hodiwala, Dinyar	1,620
DONATION IN KIND--Sukhad	
Behram Shahparast	
Farokh and Kamal Daruvala	

## CONGRATULATIONS:

•Warm wishes to **Siraz** and **Minoo Sachinwala** on their Silver Anniversary (11/10/2005).

•**Gustad Modi**, for receiving ZAGNY's contribution toward a ZAGNY congregant attending ZYNA Youth Conference in Miami, FL.

## CONDOLENCES:

Our heartfelt condolences to—

•Savak Madon and Aloo Madon on the demise of **FIROZE MADON** on November 13th in Queens, NY.

•Adi, Noshir and Minu Dutia on the demise of their mother, Mrs.Tehmina Dutia, on Nov. 21, 2005.

"The Dutia Family wishes to thank all ZAGNY members and friends who extended their heartfelt sympathies and condolences on the sad demise of our mother, Tehmina Dutia. At a time of grief, it was very comforting to have friends who shared in our loss and gave us moral support. Thank you all." ---Behroz Dutia.



## SUMMER VACATION 2005

(contd from last newsletter)

We continue to print our children's summer vacation stories. I bet they're gonna make you wish for those warm and balmy days again.

**Zarah Kavarana:** This past summer, I went to Bombay, India for my grandpa's 90th birthday (my dad's father). The last time I had gone there was for my Navjote over 3 years ago. The birthday celebration was fun although there were 120 people I did not know!

We also went to Poona for 3 days which was a good break from the Bombay monsoons. There we visited the Serum Institute of India which is the largest manufacturer and exporter of vaccines. We also went to the Poonawalla Stud Farms where the main activity is horse breeding. The Chairman of both these companies is Cyrus Poonawalla and after this visit I somehow felt proud to be a Parsee!

The first few days, I did not quite like it there and I missed my home and my friends a lot. But after 4-5 days (after the jet-lag), I started enjoying my stay and the rest of the time was spent visiting relatives, going out for dinner parties and sight-seeing. The only thing I could not get used to was all this activity at night, especially this guy singing early in the morning through a microphone! My mom told me that it wasn't just anyone singing, but that it was a Mulla saying his prayers at 5.00 am everyday (obviously there was a mosque nearby). The other thing that bothered my sleep was my grandpa's clock that chimed every 15 minutes and I wished it would stop doing that! But I couldn't ask him to switch off the chimes because that clock is too precious to him. The last annoying sound was from the night watchman below who whilst walking around the building, kept hitting his stick against the ground and that click, click, click sound was sure to keep even the heaviest of sleepers awake!

Oh well, the sights and sounds of India were interesting, though different from what we are used to out here. Anyway, I am glad to be back home to my own familiar sights and sounds!!

**Farah and Friya Randelia:** During our summer vacation we went to Cape Cod, Massachusetts and to Washington, D.C. with our family and friends. When we were in Cape Cod, MA we went for Whale watching, we visited the Light House and we visited Marthas Vineyard in high speed boat. When we were in Washington, DC we saw the Capitol Building, Washington Monument, National Air & Space Museum, International Spy Museum, White House and Lincoln Memorial Monument.

During other days when we were not traveling we went swimming every day and we also had fun attending various programs in our local library. We had a fabulous and awesome summer which we will always remember.



# Tis' the Season of Food, Not a Reason to Fret




This is the time to celebrate, and food is one of the pleasures of festivities. So when you over-indulge, and I bet you will, here are some tips to remember:

1. **Share the holiday spirit-and your food:** Most of us get chocolates, candy and other delicacies loaded with simple sugars/carbs and fat. Share them or bring them to parties or give them away to your friends.
2. **Take the edge off your hunger before a party:** We often eat faster and more when we are hungry - therefore eat a small fruit or snack before you go to avoid rushing to the buffet table when you arrive.
3. **Watch your portions:** Go for small portions. This way you can sample all the different foods. Moderation is always the best approach.
4. **Calories add up with alcohol based drinks:** Raising the glass is a big part of holiday season but slow down on the fat-packed crème based, sugar loaded mixers.
5. **Be realistic:** Don't try to lose weight over the holidays but strive to maintain your weight. Contrary to popular belief that most people gain 5-10 pounds between Thanksgiving and New Year's, a research study (*New England Journal of Medicine* 2000, 342(12):861-7) found most normal weight subjects to gain just over a pound by late February. Participants *believed* that they had gained much more weight than they actually had. However, overweight and obese volunteers were more likely to gain five pounds suggesting that the holiday season may present special risks for those who are already overweight.

So drop the party-pooper mentality of restriction and deprivation--it's certainly not part of the holidays!





10. **DONATE MORE TO CHARITY**
9. **VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME—YOUR COMMUNITY COULD REALLY USE YOUR HELP (HINT.....HINT..)**
8. **STOP PROCRASTINATING**
7. **BE STRESS-FREE**
6. **GET ORGANIZED**
5. **DON'T WORRY-BE HAPPY ☺**
4. **LEARN SOMETHING NEW**
3. **SPEND MORE TIME WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS**
2. **ADD "LIFE" TO YOUR LIFESTYLE**

**AND THE #1 NEW YEAR RESOLUTION YOU WON'T KEEP IS....**

1. **DO THE BALANCING ACT: EAT WELL AND MOVE IT!**

Make 06' your healthiest, happiest, wealthiest, wisest and most rewarding year ever!!!

## ZAGNY MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It is once again time to renew your ZAGNY Membership for the coming year. Membership to ZAGNY is on an annual basis and is due on January 1st for the calendar year. The ZAGNY membership form for 2006 is provided on the next page. Please help us to serve you better in maintaining an accurate database of the Zoroastrian community by completing the form in its entirety, and mail it to the Treasurer by **January 15th 2006**.

At this time, may we suggest you consider making an annual donation to any of your favorite charities that ZAGNY supports. Your contribution goes a long way in continuing to keep these charities active and well funded. Without the help of the community at large, these lofty endeavors would not achieve results. We urge you to donate generously. Thanks to your commitment in previous years, ZAGNY has been able to maintain these funds and help fellow Zoroastrians. Your membership is valuable to us.

**Do become a member if you are not one. Re-new your membership promptly, if you are a current member.**

If you would like to announce an event that will occur within the next 3 months or to make an general announcement in the ZAGNY newsletter, please email us at [secretary@zagny.org](mailto:secretary@zagny.org)

☐ New Member ☐ Returning Member

## 2006 ZAGNY MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
                    **Last Name**                    **First Name**                    **Spouse's Name**

CHILDREN:           **Name**                    **Date of Birth (mm/yy)**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone / Cellular / E-Mail

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐

Spouse's E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐

*Please include the checked addresses on the ZAGNY email list.*

☐ *My contact information has changed within the last year.*

	<u>MEMBER'S INFO.</u>	<u>SPOUSE'S INFO.</u>
Originally from:	_____	_____
Company Name:	_____	_____
Profession/Title:	_____	_____
Address:	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Business Phone:	(____) ____ - _____	(____) ____ - _____
Business Fax:	(____) ____ - _____	(____) ____ - _____
Business E-mail:	_____	_____

**Type of membership desired (check one):**

<i>Regular Member*</i>	<i>Associate Member**</i>		
[ ]	[ ]	Family membership	\$100
[ ]	[ ]	Individual adult membership	50
[ ]	[ ]	Senior citizens-per person	30
[ ]	[ ]	Full time student membership	25
[ ]	[ ]	Non-resident membership	40
[ ]	[ ]	Mail me the next directory (\$5 S&H)	5
		Donation:	\$ _____
			\$ _____

**Please allocate my donation to the following fund(s):**

	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> New Building	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> General Fund	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Critical Assist.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Library	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	_____

\* *Regular Members: At least one member of the family is Zoroastrian*

\*\**Associate Members: No member of the family is Zoroastrian*

- o **Family:** Parent(s) and their Children under the age of 21 years.
- o **Individual Adult:** 21 years old and over.
- o **Senior Citizen:** 65 years old and over.
- o **Student:** Enrolled Full-Time at an Academic Institution.
- o **Non-Resident:** Residing outside the States of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

**Please make your check payable to ZAGNY and mail it with your form to:**

**ZAGNY Treasurer Minoo Bengali**  
**1124 Indian Hill Road**  
**Toms River, NJ 08753**  
**Tel. 732-288-1227.**



# *New Year's Eve Celebration*



The Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York  
Cordially invites you to celebrate New Year's Eve

December 31, 2005

At the Darbe Mehr - Suffern, NY

At 7:00 PM

## Featuring

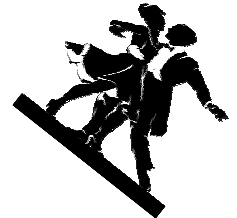
Hors D'oeuvres

Delicious Dinner

Door Prizes/Raffle/Games

Dance to Live Music with DJ

Champagne Toast at midnight



PLEASE SEND YOUR RESERVATION BY  
DECEMBER 20<sup>th</sup>

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

_____ ADULT MEMBERS	\$25.00	_____
_____ NON MEMBERS	\$30.00	_____
_____ STUDENTS/CHILDREN (6 - 15)	\$15.00	_____
_____ SENIOR CITIZENS (OVER 70)	\$15.00	_____
_____ CHILDREN (0 - 5)	FREE	_____

TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

There will be a surcharge of \$10.00/person at the gate

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO ZAGNY

Mail to:

Treasurer, MINOO BENGALI

1124 Indian Hill Road, Toms River, NJ 08753

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

**Phone**  
845.362.2104

**E-Mail**  
secretary@zagny.org

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

<u><b>JANUARY 2006</b></u>		
1/8	ZAGNY RELIGIOUS CLASSES	(1 PM START)
<u><b>FEBRUARY 2006</b></u>		
2/5	ZAGNY RELIGIOUS CLASSES	(1 PM START)
<u><b>MARCH 2006</b></u>		
3/5	ZAGNY RELIGIOUS CLASSES	(1 PM START)
3/18	NAVROZ FUNCTION	
<u><b>APRIL 2006</b></u>		
4/2	ZAGNY RELIGIOUS CLASSES	(1 PM START)
<u><b>MAY 2006</b></u>		
5/7	ZAGNY RELIGIOUS CLASSES	(1 PM START)
<u><b>JUNE 2006</b></u>		
6/4	ZAGNY RELIGIOUS CLASSES	(1 PM START)

***ZAGNY Wishes all its Members a Joyous, Healthy and Peaceful 2006***

ZAGNY  
106 Pomona Rd.  
Suffern, NY 10901

*We're on the Web!*

*See us at:*

***[www.zagny.org](http://www.zagny.org)***

**Zoroastrian  
Association of  
Greater New York.**