



### Issue 39 – February 2008 Newsletter

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#### NAVROOZ RELATED ACTIVITIES

Lack of snow this winter sure is making some of us thinking spring which means **Navrooz** can't be too far away! This year again ZAGNY will have **two** celebrations around that time, so do read on...

#### NAVROOZ DAY RECEPTION Friday, March 21, 4:30 – 6:30 pm

This year March 21<sup>st</sup> falls on a holiday (Good Friday) and we hope many of you will be able to make it to our "Navrooz Day Reception" at the Darbe Mehr. Once again various Zoroastrian associations of North America are planning to celebrate Navrooz with a uniform program and we would like to draw publicity and give more exposure to our community and faith.

Various interfaith leaders will be invited and we hope to see many of our ZAGNY members at this event. The function will commence at 4:30 pm with prayers and a short program and reception. So folks, let us celebrate and showcase our Zarthushti New Year day with pride. Kindly RSVP to **Kerman Dukandar** at [jointsecretary@zagny.org](mailto:jointsecretary@zagny.org) if attending.

#### NAVROOZ CELEBRATION Sat., March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 5:30 pm

ZAGNY will have its annual fun filled Navrooz celebration on Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2008. Please mail your registration forms (page 7) by the **March 14<sup>th</sup>** deadline to avoid the late surcharge.

#### NEW BOARD ELECTIONS Sat., March 22<sup>nd</sup>

In March 2008, the three-year term of the current ZAGNY board will come to an end and a new board will be elected at the Navrooz function on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. On page 6 of this newsletter is the absentee/mail ballot showing names of the nominees standing for election for various positions. On the day of the election you will have the opportunity to hear from each of the candidates and to vote for them in person. If you are unable to attend the meeting in person, you may use the attached ballots to vote by mail, following the procedure given below:

**1. Only dues paying adult members of ZAGNY are eligible to vote.**

2. Please send your membership dues with the enclosed membership form to Minoo Bengali, if you have not already done so.

3. Each adult (18 years old) member has one vote, with up to two votes per family membership. (Reminder—Non Zoroastrian spouses of Zoroastrian members are full voting members and are encouraged to vote).

**4. IMPORTANT:** Please fill out the absentee/mail ballot, seal it in an envelope with the names and addresses of the voting members written on the outside left corner of the envelope and mail it to **Khursheed P. Navder**, 74 Two Bridges Road, Towaco, NJ 07082, postmarked no later than March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Unnamed envelopes will be disqualified.

Note: If you vote by mail and are present at the election, you may revoke your mailed ballot and vote in person.

# NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

Dec. 31, 2007

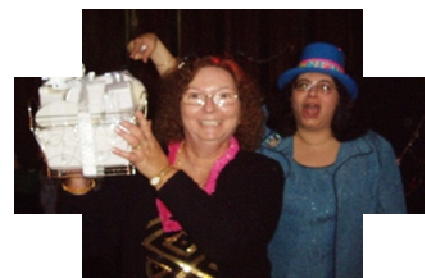
This yuletide event was the last for this current ZAGNY board and we wanted to celebrate and ring in 2008 with fun and flair. Our team spared no effort (or expense) at preparing for this celebration for our fun-loving flock. Some of our guests drove for 5 h to attend this function (yes, our reputation of throwing the best parties ever has indeed spread far and wide and we had folks coming down all the way from Albany). These sporting individuals have attended our functions before and know the *dhamal* that is in store for them at ZAGNY events. Our MC-DJ team **Farokh Daruwala**, and **Dinyar Kalwachwala** sure knows our *desi* and *angrezi* tastes and choices by now and everyone present--from toddlers to grandparents and all in the middle--would attest to that. Whether you attended by yourself or with family/friends, the various games/contests/raffles, and of course our hi-tech countdown with the excitement of Times Square on the big screens, all ensured that our guests would have a great time. From chef **Sheroo Kanga**'s authentically delicious Parsi delectables, to the macarena, the maracas and the martinis--loads of fun was had by one and all.



Here's what my niece, **Shruti Dusaj**--a freshmen this year at Georgetown University had to say: This New Years' Eve was my first away from home (India), friends, and all things familiar. So it was only natural that when my *Chacha-Chachi* asked me to go with them to the ZAGNY function I was a little apprehensive about how the evening might turn out, especially since growing up in Delhi I was not very familiar with Parsi customs and culture. However, once I was at Darbe Mehr, I realized things were certainly not going to be glum. The excited buzz that surrounded everyone as we decorated the room was definitely contagious. The evening turned to be a lot of fun -- and I have to say one of my favorite parts was watching everybody, from the little ones to the grown-ups, do the chicken dance. The final dances, reminiscent of 1970s Bombay movies, were a lot of fun too. The proverbial topping on the cake, for someone with a major sweet tooth like mine, however, was the Parsi custard!

Another testimony from our ZAGNY member **Firdosh Mehta**--On behalf of all my family members I wish to record our thanks for a job well done at the New Year's evening program at the Darbe-Mehr. We all enjoyed the great music, general ambience with imaginative decorations and the excellent Parsi food. To put up such a show surely required great organization, coordination, imagination, time and efforts on the part of you all. I must say we had a very enjoyable evening ringing in the New Year.

So folks, if you just sat in front of your TV and watched the ball come down, you better make this late New Year resolution to not miss any of our ZAGNY events this year!



## RELIGION AND DAILY LIFE

### Talk by Keki Dadachanji

While our children were attending their regular religion classes on January 7<sup>th</sup>, the adults were fortunate to have **Keki Dadachanji** address us on an extremely practical topic—Religion and Daily Life. A summary of his talk is given below for those of you who missed this interesting session.

Religion should guide us in our daily living. Two short prayers, ("Yatha Ahu Vairyo" and "Ashem Vohu") of the Zarthushti religion give us this direction. Reflection on the words of these prayers reveal deeper meanings. The same themes appear in other great spiritual traditions of the world, in remarkably similar language.

The central message of the "Yatha Ahu Vairyo" is that the path of Asha leads to illumination. The law of Asha is a spiritual law governing the universe, just as gravity is a law governing the physical universe. Various spiritual traditions call this law by different names (such as Tao), but the premise is the same. Following the law of Asha means working for the creations of the Lord. We should work for the creations of the Lord without expectation of any reward. Then the unasked reward will come to us in the form of "Vohu Mano", the "Good Mind".

"Ashem Vohu" tells us that following the path of Asha leads to "Ushta", the abiding joy. In Hindu tradition the "real" ("Sat") is that which does not change; conversely, anything that changes is not real. Things give us temporary happiness. "Ushta" is happiness that never changes, never leaves us. The final line of the "Ashem Vohu" prayer is astonishingly similar to the central lesson of the Bhagavad Gita: Do what is right; do not expect results. When we expect things to turn out certain way, we can be disappointed. "Ashem Vohu" says, follow the path of Asha without expecting any results, and it will bring to us abiding joy, like a shadow that never leaves.

In the current climate of religious disharmony it is comforting to see that all great spiritual traditions give us the same blueprint for daily living.

## WORLD ZARATHUSHTI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE--NEW YORK CHAPTER NEWS

### Post- event write up by Usheen Davar

On Sunday, December 2nd, the WZCC Young Professionals had organized their first "Conversations With" event in NY at *Grafitti* with owner and chef, **Jehangir Mehta**. Despite a snow storm, the turnout was great. Assembled across several small tables, the group of 23 people spent the first half hour getting to know each other. As appetites grew strong, Jehangir spent a few minutes discussing the origins and ingredients of the dishes on the lunch menu and explained the decor within the restaurant. Later, as people dined, he shared the successes of his career, the challenges of the restaurant business, and some personal advice with the group. Many questions followed. Overall, the event was extremely successful. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet new people, network, and share common interests for business, entrepreneurship and of course food.

The WZCC Young Professionals committee plans to organize similar future events and hopes to encourage others within the community to join. To learn more about the organization or how you can get involved, please contact one of the following NY committee members: **Zubin Canteenwalla** at [zcanteenwalla@hotmail.com](mailto:zcanteenwalla@hotmail.com); **Usheen Davar** at [usheen@aol.com](mailto:usheen@aol.com) or **Shaun Mirza** at [shaunmirza@gmail.com](mailto:shaunmirza@gmail.com).

## ZOROASTRIAN DELEGATION TO PARTICIPATE AT 52<sup>nd</sup> COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

FEZANA delegation of Zoroastrian community leaders is to participate in this conference (**Feb. 25 – March 7, 2008**), at UN headquarters in New York. More than 2,000 representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) from over 80 countries are expected to attend and participate in round table, panel and workshop discussion during the two week event. The theme of the conference is "*Financing for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women.*"

The Zoroastrian delegation will be represented by **Mantreh Atashband**, **Afreed Mistry** and **Shekufeh Zonji** (all of Toronto), **Homi D. Gandhi** (Glen Rock, NJ), **Farah Minwalla** (New York City), **Sanaya, Nawaz, and Tahmoures Hormozdyan** (Vienna, Va.) **Behram Pastakia** (Bethesda, Md.) and **Dolly Dastoor** (Montreal).

FEZANA Delegation will also present a panel discussion event on **29<sup>th</sup> Feb at 1:30 PM –on 10<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Church Center, located at 44<sup>th</sup> Street on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, right opposite of the UN Building.** *The panel discussion will be on "Technology & Private Sector bringing solutions in Financing to Impoverished Communities."*

**All Zoroastrians in the tri-state area are invited to attend the event. Please come in large number and hear what your fellow Zoroastrians from all over North America have to say on this thought-provoking subject.**

## DONATIONS

	Critical Asst	General Fund	Scholarship Fund	New Bld Fund	Library	Endowment
Anonymous			70			
Antia, Xerxes and Smita	200					
Antia, Darius and Hilla	40	60				
Aria, Porus and Soonoo	100					
Bamji, Dolat		20				
Bamji, Edul & Tenaz		101				
Bavaadam, Pesi and Daulat	15	15	15		15	
Bengali, Minoo and Dinaz			25			
Bharda, Aspi and Zarin	25					
Bhoja, Jeros		501				
Buhariwalla, Behram	50					
Farrokh & Gulestan Deboo in mem of brother Nariman	1001					
Cama, Lovji and Mehru	15					200
Cama,Cyrus and Farzana		100		100		
Dadina, Rohinton and Navaz				200		
Daroowalla, Mehernosh and Tina			50			
Daruvala, Toos and Hira	200					
Dastur, Nari and Dinoo	100					
Daver, Edul and Niloufer				1000		
Devitre, Dinyar and Aashish		200				
Diemma, Inc (Phil and Dhun Shroff)	50	50	50	50	50	
Dinshaw, Bomi Nina				151		
Dubash, Mehru and Darius		500				
Dukandar, Kerman and Jasely	51		51			
Dutia, Noshir and Kashmira	300		200			
Bachu and Dhun Panthaki. In memory of beloved sister Khorshed Panthaky				3000		
Hakim, Khushru and Roshan	100					
Irani, Furrokh	50	50				
Irani, Khushru, Farzana	100					
Iranian Zordastrian Association	250					
Kanga, Vispi and Sheroo				101		
Karai, Zarir and Kashmira	25					
Karanja, Banoo	501					
Khambatta, Goolcher and Kayomarz	80		180			
Khambatta, Hoshang and Renate				100		
Khodadadi, Irandokhd		33				
Lalkaka, Rustam and Phiroza			100			
Langrana, Noshir and Dinaz			190			
Lobsons International Inc., Pervin & Darryl Lobo	1000					
Madon, Rohinton and Yasmin	25	25		25	25	
Mehta, khorshed	25		25			
Mehta, Sherazad	25	25	25	25		
Merchant, Hoshi and Nawaz	51					
Minwalla, Homi and Parveen	100					
Mistry, Keki and Khorshed	40					
Morris, Fred and Zahver			140			
Motivala, Meherwan & Joan	61					
Munshi, Erach	150					
Najmi, Merwan and Faina			101			
Nentin, Gev and Aban	500					
Neville, Maharukh and Vincent	50			100		
Nowrojee, Eruch					101	
Patel, Farokh and Dominique	50	60		60		
Patel, Framroze and Armaity			41			
Patel, Rajan and Ferzin	51					

## DONATIONS (contd.)

	Critical Asst	General Fund	Scholarship Fund	New Bld Fund	Library	Endowment
Saklatwalla, Vira		100				
Saraf, Thrity and Sharad	50	50				
Sarkari, Homi and Gul		50	50			
Sethna, Rusi and Shernaz		40				
Tavaria, Soli and Naju	50					
Thakarar, Dina	60					
Thakarar, Gool and Ramesh	50					
Udwadia, Viraf and Kety		100		101		
Wadia, Jimmy and Goolcher			50			
Yektashenas, Mitra & Iraj	101					
Cash and checks under \$25			108			
<b>Total</b>	<b>5692</b>	<b>2080</b>	<b>1471</b>	<b>5013</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>200</b>

\*In accordance to the customary policy, donations under \$25 are not individually listed.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BIRTHS:

•Congratulations to **Shehriyar** and **Nerina Antia** on the birth of their baby boy "**Azad**" on Friday, January 18, 2008. Congratulations also to grandparents Aban & Purvez Rustomji and Hilla & Darius Antia as well as his cousins Aaryan Rustomji, Shirin & Dinyar Unvala, Aunts & Uncles – Meher & Arish Rustomji and Shiraz Antia & Zarir Unvala.

### CONGRATULATIONS:

To our ZAGNY member, **Dr. Noshir Langrana** who has been selected to receive the 2008 H.R. Lissner Medal. Noshir has been selected due to his significant contribution to the growth of bioengineering and to the mission of ASME Bioengineering Division; and for his internationally recognized work on spinal biomechanics, especially in the area of design and development of artificial disc. The award consists of an honorarium, bronze medal and a certificate. A formal presentation of the award is scheduled to take place at the 2008 Summer Bioengineering Conference, in Marko Island, Florida, June 25-29, 2008. ZAGNY wishes you continued success and may you keep on achieving higher awards in recognition of your contribution.

### CALLING ALL CHESS PLAYERS--OF ALL AGES!!

Chess, a long-time passion in several advanced countries, is becoming very popular in India and China. Not only many adults are becoming passionate about chess, but also a growing number of Chinese and Indian parents are anxious to offer their chess-playing children coaching for improvement. Chinese masters have grown to become formidable chess talents challenging even the Russians. India has numerous Grandmasters now and the chess-world has a new world champion, Vishvanathan Anand--the first Indian to have clinched the title (even though the royal game originated in this once-princely country). Some US schools have also begun to offer chess as a subject. Chess is breaking out!

**Viraf Kapadia** would like to find out the level of interest in starting a chess club and perhaps having chess tournaments for our ZAGNY members of all ages who already know how to play and possess some level of skill. If interested please contact him at [vkapmail@yahoo.com](mailto:vkapmail@yahoo.com) indicating your level of skill.

### FEZANA AGM--2008

The California Zoroastrian Center will host the next **FEZANA AGM on May 9-11, 2008**, at 8925 Hazard Ave, Westminster, CA 92683. For more details visit the FEZANA website at [www.fezana.org](http://www.fezana.org).

### NAVROOZ DAY PARADE

The fifth "Persian Parade" in celebration of Navrooz Day is expected to draw tens of thousands of participants and spectators in New York City. Details on the date and time will be posted at our ZAGNY website as soon as they are made available ([www.zagny.org](http://www.zagny.org)). Please contact **Homi Gandhi** at [president@zagny.org](mailto:president@zagny.org) for more information and registration.

### REVLON RUN/WALK--Sat., May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008

Our ZAGNY team will once again participate with **Sheroo Kanga** as captain. Our team No. 1109 has been activated and you can go ahead and register yourself--we hope to see many of you there. Let us raise even more funds this year for this very worthy cause.





**ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW YORK, INC.**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2005 - 2008**

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*Treasurer:*

*Secretary:*

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Nawaz Merchant

Minoo Bengali

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*Members-at-Large:* Ferzin Patel

Michel Reid

Vispi Kanga

Kaizad Darbari

Shahnaz Shroff

**COMPLETE THIS BALLOT ONLY IF YOU ARE NOT ATTENDING THE MARCH 22<sup>nd</sup>  
FUNCTION AND YOU MEET THE REQUIREMENTS ON PAGE 1.**

**ABSENTEE MAIL BALLOT**

**If you are not planning to attend the Annual General Body  
Meeting, or if you would prefer to vote by mail, use this ballot  
to vote.**

**MAIL BALLOT 2008-2011 ZAGNY BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
FROM  
APRIL 2008 TO MARCH 2011**

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VICE-PRESIDENT  
TREASURER  
SECRETARY  
JOINT SECRETARY  
MEMBERS AT LARGE:**

**GEV NENTIN  
KHURSHEED NAVDER  
KERMAN DUKANDAR  
PERVIN LOBO  
KEKI DADACHANJI  
BEHROZ DUTIA  
DINYAR KALWACHWALA  
VISPI KANGA  
FERZIN PATEL**

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**Mail to: Khursheed P. Navder, 74 Two Bridges Road Towaco, NJ 07082**

# Navrooz Mubarak

The Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York  
Cordially invites you to celebrate Navrooz

on

Sat., March 22, 2008

At the Darbe Mehr - Suffern, NY

## PROGRAM:

5:00	REGISTRATION
5:30	ATASH NIAYESH PRAYER
6:00	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
6:30	APPETIZERS
7:30	ENTERTAINMENT
8:30	DINNER AND DANCING



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

___ ADULT MEMBERS	\$30.00	_____
___ CHILDREN of members (5-12 y)	\$20.00	_____
___ SENIOR CITIZENS (OVER 65 y)	\$20.00	_____
___ CHILDREN (under 5 y) FREE		_____
___ NON MEMBERS	\$45.00	_____

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

PLEASE SEND YOUR RESERVATION BY Friday, March 14

No phone reservations will be taken after that date

Surcharge of \$15.00 per person and \$25.00 per family will apply to all  
registrations done at the door

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

<b>FEBRUARY 2008</b>	
<b>2/29</b>	<b>FEZANA UN-NGO CONFERENCE &amp; PANEL DISCUSSION (details inside)</b>
<b>MARCH 2008</b>	
<b>3/2</b>	<b>ZAGNY RELIGIOUS CLASSES (1 PM)</b>
<b>3/21</b>	<b>NAVROOZ DAY RECEPTION (4:30 PM)</b>
<b>3/22</b>	<b>NAVROOZ FUNCTION (5:30 PM)</b>
<b>TBA</b>	<b>NAVROOZ DAY PARADE (check ZAGNY website for details)</b>
<b>APRIL 2008</b>	
<b>4/6</b>	<b>ZAGNY RELIGIOUS CLASSES (1 PM)</b>
<b>MAY 2008</b>	
<b>5/3</b>	<b>REVLON RUN/WALK</b>
<b>5/4</b>	<b>ZAGNY RELIGIOUS CLASSES (1 PM)</b>

### **RENEWED YOUR ZAGNY MEMBERSHIP FOR 2008?**

A big "THANK YOU" to those of you who have already renewed your 2008 membership. For those of you who have not renewed or paid, please revive your membership as soon as possible. The membership form can be found in the Nov. 2007 newsletter, or can be downloaded from our website: [www.zagny.org](http://www.zagny.org)

ZAGNY  
106 Pomona Rd.  
Suffern, NY 10901

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*We're on the Web!*

*See us at:*

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

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