



ZAGNY

ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION
OF GREATER NEW YORK

Issue 40—June 2008 Newsletter

ARTICLES:

ZAGNY NEW BOARD	2
NAUROOZ	2
MAYOR'S NAUROOZ RECEPTION	2
REVLON RUN/WALK	3
ZAGNY PICNIC	3
ANNOUNCEMENTS	4
MUKTAD PRAYERS	5
MUKTAD FORM	6
PATETI FORM	7

NAUROOZ FESTIVITIES

Submitted by Khursheed Navder

NauRooz Day Reception: This year once again ZAGNY and other North American Zoroastrian associations celebrated Naurooz on the very day, March 21st itself. Being a holiday (it fell on Good Friday), over 125 ZAGNY and IZA members came to celebrate the Persian New Year together.

The program started with prayers performed by **Ervads Pervez Patel, Poruz Khambatta, Karl Khambatta, Bezan Madon, and Farhad Ranji.**

A beautiful traditional Haft-Sheen table was laid out by our IZA friends. **Tina Dukandar** gave an introduction to the significance of Naurooz after which our children--**Carina Daruwala, Shirin Dadina, Natasha Dusaj, Cyrus Merchant, Sam Merchant, Spenta Bamji, Neville Dusaj, Karl Khambatta, Zarina Bamji, and Poruz Khambatta** came up and gave descriptions of various items on the table. This was followed by

a song by **Tara Jamshedian**, an opera singer whose melodious voice left the crowd totally mesmerized. **Neville Dusaj** then played "*Chaiye Hame Zarhosti*" accompaniment on keyboard and the function ended on an exuberant note as all gathered joined in singing this lively song. After the festivities, delicious traditional Irani, Parsi, and Indian snacks were enjoyed by the congregation. Thanks to all our Tri-State Zoroastrians who made the reception a major success by attending.



ZAGNY BOARD:

President

GEV NENTIN

president@zagny.org

Vice President

KHURSHEED NAVDER

vicepresident@zagny.org

Treasurer

KERMAN DUKANDAR

treasurer@zagny.org

Secretary

PERVIN TATA-LOBO

secretary@zagny.org

Joint Secretary

KEKI DADACHANJI

jointsecretary@zagny.org

Members at Large

BEHROZ DUTIA

behroz@zagny.org

DINYAR KALWACHWALA

dinyar@zagny.org

VISPI KANGA

vispi@zagny.org

FERZIN PATEL

ferzin@zagny.org

NauRooz Function

March 22, 2008

Our celebrations continued on Saturday, March 22nd when ZAGNY held its annual AGM and Navroze (pronunciation by Parsi Zoroastrians) function at the Pomona Darbe Mehr. The evening started with an *Atash-Niyaesh* prayer ceremony performed by **Ervad Xerxes Antia**, and our young mobed brothers- **Karl and Poruz Khambatta.**



On behalf of the community, we'd like to thank them for their participation. Following the Jashan, our Annual General Meeting was called to order by **President Homi Gandhi**, and in his report he thanked the board and the numerous dedicated individuals. **Khursheed Navder** in her secretarial report highlighted our celebrations, achievements, donation drives and youth activities over the past year. She ended with thanking the community for their support and encouragement over the past 3 years and acknowledged and recognized each of her fellow board members and their spouses. Treasurer, **Minoo Bengali** then presented the 2007 Financial Statements, which were unanimously approved by the members. All reports are available on our website at www.zagny.org. Following appetizers, our favorite MC-DJ team—**Farokh Daruwala** and **Dinyar Kalwachwala**—got the crowd up and dancing. Even though it got quite crowded in there--this was by far one of our largest gatherings with over 260 people from the community--a fun time was had by all.

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY CONTINUES.....

Announcing (drum roll please...) our new ZAGNY board (2008-2011)

The new board was elected at our Navroze celebration on March 22nd, and includes-

Something old (old timers--Gev Nentin, Vispi Kanga, Behroz Dutia)

Something new (new comers--Pervin Lobo, Keki Dadachanji, Dinyar Kalwachwala)

Something borrowed (from the past board--Khursheed Navder, Kerman Dukandar, Ferzin Patel)

Nothing blue!

There are many things we would like to accomplish for our kids, teens, young adults and seniors. We look forward to the continued support of all our members to make this a vibrant and involved community. Let us hear from you at secretary@zagny.org

Other Naurooz Related Events: On **March 25th**, Michael Bloomberg, celebrated NauRoouz with the leaders of all ethnic communities observing this holiday at a breakfast at Gracie Mansion, the official residence of the New York City Mayor. A gathering of almost 50+ individuals included five Zoroastrians (**Homi Gandhi**, President of ZAGNY; **Zarin Mehta**, President New York Philharmonic; **Shirin Khosravi**, President, IZA; **Cyrus Mehta**, well-known lawyer; **Kayhan Irani**, famous artist)--quite a representation for a small community. On Sun., March 30th, Zoroastrians from many parts of our neighboring area participated in the fifth "**Persian Parade**" in celebration of NauRoouz Day on Madison Avenue in New York City.

So friends, with all these festivities and events—not to mention the NauRoouz broadcast on ITV/Vision of Asia where **Homi Gandhi**, President of ZAGNY and **Jamshed Ghadiali**, former Vice President of ZAGNY were interviewed—NauRoouz was certainly celebrated with the pomp and splendor in our area.

ZAGNY Youth Member, Kayhan Irani—Co-Editor of New Book

The fantastic book I had the joy of co-editing is officially released to the public!!! "**Telling Stories to Change the World: Global Voices on the Power of Narrative to Build Community and Make Social Justice Claims**" is published by Routledge Press and is available through their site, <http://www.routledge.com/books/Telling-Stories-to-Change-the-World-isbn9780415960809> or on Amazon (among other places). The **Book Release Party** is on **Friday, June 20th 2008 - 7:30 PM** at The Brecht Forum 451 West St. (on the corner of Bank St.). We'll be signing copies of the book and many of our contributors will speak about their projects giving updates on their work! For more details visit my site - <http://www.artivista.org/> Hope to see you all soon! Lots of Love ~ Kayhan

40 Years of Giving and Associate Shows No Signs of Stopping An excerpt from METLIFE NEWS: DECEMBER 13, 2007

"It's great to give blood," asserts **Jamshed Ghadiali**, operations manager at Lake Success (NY) Financial Group, a MetLife Agency Distribution Group office. He should know. Jamshed has been **donating blood, platelets and plasma since August, 1965**, and with over 40 years of giving the "gift of life" under his belt, has donated more than **200** times. This giver *extraordinaire* first donated in his native country of India, and continued the tradition following his move to the United States in 1976. In fact, over the last 10 years, Jamshed has averaged 10 donations of one kind or another per year. Additionally, he has been on the National Bone Marrow Registry for years, and is ready, willing and able to donate marrow should he get "the call." Also, as an active member of the South Asian Marrow Association of Recruiters (SAMAR), a group dedicated to serving patients diagnosed with leukemia and other blood disorders from the South Asian community, Jamshed continually looks for ways to increase awareness of the Registry and recruitment of potential marrow donors.

Jamshed is a walking, talking and sometimes even running advertisement for helping those in need. Over the years, his impressive and selfless resume has grown to include: running the ING NYC Marathon with Fred's Team to raise funds for cancer research, participating in the Avon 2-Day Walk for Breast Cancer and helping raise money and awareness for United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) of Queens, a branch of the national UCP organization whose mission is to advance the independence, productivity and full citizenship of people with disabilities. According to Jamshed, giving has no bounds, and no matter how small the effort, you can make a difference. "You never know when something can happen that will prevent you from being able to help others. We should give until we cannot give any more."

REVLON RUN/WALK

May 3, 2008

Submitted by Khursheed Navder

On Saturday, May 3rd, 2008, ZAGNY team 1109 joined over 40,000 participants in Times Square for the Annual REVLOn Run/Walk For Women. Despite the chilly temperatures (Brrrr it was in the 40's!), all 17 sporting registrants showed up. Our youth sprinted off early on, while we-- 40, 50 n 60 somethings –took our own sweet time to *lehre-laare* reach the finish line *maroing taila-tappa* along the way.



Photos by Nancy Daruwala



Once again, under the able leadership of Captain **Sheroo Kanga**, our ZAGNY team has been able to raise **\$9,393** so far for this worthy cause.

While 17 of us chose to walk, many more of you donated money in support of loved ones and we thank you all for your generous pledges. Every single member took it upon themselves to go that extra mile and worked hard at raising critical funds that are going to go a long way in bringing us closer toward our goal of eradicating cancers and ensuring a bright future. We look forward to seeing many more of you next year in Times Square for the 12th Anniversary of this major event!



ZAGNY SUMMER PICNIC

Saturday, July 12, 2008



IT'S ALMOST PICNIC TIME!!! Come join us with kids and families for our annual ZAGNY picnic at the Shepherd **Lake Recreation Area** located in **Ringwood State Park** (Ringwood, NJ). The spring-fed waters of the 74-acre Shepherd Lake offer swimming, boating, canoeing fishing, hiking trails etc. The park is open from 8:00am to 8:00PM daily. **THERE IS NO RESERVED SPACE SO PLEASE ARRIVE EARLY.** Some of us will try and get there around 9 am to save a few tables for our ZAGNY group. Since the park does not allow signs, we will have someone meet you in the parking area to direct you to the picnic location. There is no per person admission charge, however the park charges a parking fee of \$10.00 per car.

Bring your favorite potluck picnic dish (enough to share with 8-10 people), and come prepared to have a great time! Grills are available for cook-outs. ZAGNY will provide watermelon, iced tea, hot tea and charcoal for the cook out. Call **Ferzin Patel** (845-354-5163), **Kerman** (732-494-7976), or **Vispi** (201-227-1890), if you plan to attend.

On the day of the picnic, once you are in the park, **Ferzin**, **Kerman** and **Vispi** will have their cell phones switched on in case you need directions to the picnic area. **(Cell numbers for day of picnic: Ferzin Patel-845-216-1368, Kerman-732-742-2275, Vispi-201-248-7208.** Additional details are on the Park's website <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/ringwood.html>.

So folks, do mark your calendars and plan to join us at our annual picnic!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Condolences:

- To Rustom and Farah Bhojti on the sudden demise of Rustom's mother, Vira Bhojti, grandma to Shahrooz & Shenay, in Melbourne, Australia on 18th May 2008.
- Passed away peacefully on June 4, 2008, Dhunjishaw Kaikushroo Tata, in Mumbai; husband of Armaity Tata, brother of Katy Viraf Udwadia, uncle of Neville, Paula, and Dianne Udwadia.

The Udwadia Family thanks all friends & families for their kind words of sympathy & condolences expressed on their loss.

Matrimonial:

- Parsi Gentleman, family oriented, fun loving, 41 years old, (divorcee - no kids) residing and working in Queens, NY, with a very nice family background, is interested in meeting a Parsi Lady, unmarried or married (with or without children) with the purpose of settling down in life. If interested, please call on 646-243-6267.

Thanks:

- To **Behroze** and **Astad Clubwala** and **Aban Chavda** for donating *sukhad* and bringing this precious gift for our Atash Padshah.
- To **Goolu** and **Noshir Baria** for sponsoring ghambar on June 1st, 2008 —\$861 amount collected will go to ZAGNY's Critical Assistance Fund.
- Dear ZAGNY Members and Other Contributors -
I would like to sincerely and wholeheartedly thank you for contributing to the clothing and supply drive for Iraqi children. When I arrived at the Darbe Mehr to gather the items, I froze in my tracks as I looked at the mountain of clothes and toys and school supplies. I was in shock at what the temple gathered in such a short period of time. My heart felt what the eye could not see - the love, support, and compassion in those boxes. I hope that the children they reach will also feel that love and support. May the supplies carry that light of goodness and love and be a tiny grain of sand lining the shores of peace. May we live to see the day when war and destruction are buried in these sands.

To update you on the process, the items are in storage as I finalize the shipping details. I have found that delivering the goods can be confusing and sometimes frustrating. However, I am given strength and determination because I am not acting alone - you are all supporting me.

Thank you so much and God bless you. With Love ~ **Kayhan Irani**

Parsi General Hospital Fund Raiser:

- Parsi General Hospital Fund Raiser Jashan and Dinner will be held on Saturday 28th 2008, 6:30 pm at Jamshed and Yasmin Ghadiali's residence—2686 Belcher Street, Baldwin, NY

2008 GOOL KOTHAWALA ESSAY CONTEST

By Nawaz Merchant

Announcing our 3rd annual essay contest!!!

Subjects: 1) **Why I wear the sudreh garment** (Students are asked to write from the heart about their OWN reasons for wearing the sudreh garment. If the child has not had their Navjote they can write about '**Why I want to wear the sudreh**') 2) **While saying my kusti, I think of...** (Students are asked to write an honest answer- there is no right or wrong essay. Essays can be humorous, heartfelt, or practical. At least one line should say what they believe is the meaning of a kusti prayer.)

Contest Rules: Essays should be personal and anecdotal. **Students must submit original work, and be current members of ZAGNY.** Essays should be about 200 words (This is only 1 typed page with double spacing), please use MS-Word (it does the word count as well). Entries should be emailed to navmerch2002@yahoo.com with Name, Contact number, & Age of participant, on or before **July 21st 2008.**

Essays will be judged in two categories, the 8-11 age group and the 12-15 age group. One first prize of \$50 will be awarded in each category. Certificates will be awarded to 2nd and 3rd place entries in each category.

Judging: Contestants names will be masked from the judges. Of course, the judges decision is final.

All entries are the property of The Gool Kothawala Essay Competition.

MUKTAD PRAYERS

August 14-18 2008

Our Zoroastrian community is invited to participate in the Muktdad Prayers for all five days from August 14th through August 18th, 2008. 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.

The Muktdad prayers at the Darbe Mehr will be held on Sunday August 17th at 11:00 AM. Lunch will be served after the prayers. Our Mobeds will recite submitted names on all five days at the following locations:

Date	Thursday August 14	Friday August 15	Saturday August 16	Sunday August 17	Monday August 18
Place	Princeton Junction NJ	Queens NY	Long Island, NY & Waldwick, NJ	Pomona Darbe Mehr NY	OPEN
Time	6.30 p.m.	6:15 pm	6:30 pm	11:00 am	
Hosted By	Farah & Rustom Bhopti	Teshtar & Noshir Irani	Yasmin & Jamshed Ghadiali Pervin and Fali Shroff	ZAGNY	OPEN

Please complete the form on page 6 of this newsletter and mail to reach us by **August 8th**. Should you have any other questions, please contact **Vispi Kanga** (201-227-1890) or **Ferzin Patel** (845-354-5163).

ZAGNY SCHOLARSHIP

We invite applications for financial assistance (in the form of interest-free loans) from Zoroastrian students who are or will be enrolled for full-time study in undergraduate or graduate-level program for the academic year 2008-2009. The Application Form along with detailed eligibility criteria and other related information will be available on the ZAGNY website. The deadline for filing an application is **July 25, 2008**. For additional information, please contact the scholarship committee chairperson: **Keki Dadachanji**, Email: keki@zagny.org

NextGenNow 2008 - *Your Future in Your Hands*

This conference will be held **Friday, Aug. 1 to Sunday, Aug. 3**, on the beautiful campus of George Mason University in suburban Washington, D.C.

NextGenNow 2008 is the second in a continuing series of conferences aimed at the next generation of Zarathushti leadership in North America. Unlike a congress, this event is a conference and intended for Zarathushti leaders throughout North America. ***From college students to young professionals in their 30s and 40s, we seek Zarathushtis who have demonstrated an interest in leading on Zarathushti education, awareness, and community building in North America.***

Please be on the look out for announcements on conference speakers, the launch of our brand new web site: **www.nextgennow.org**, registration information and deadline dates. To volunteer and lead on conference preparation, please feel free to contact any members of the team. You can also find us on Facebook and Yahoogroups under the category 'NextGenerationNow'.

Your NextGenNow leadership team is available to serve you and answer any questions:

Jim Engineer

jim.engineer@e-rainmaker.com

Armaity Homavazir

spendarmad@yahoo.ca

Nikan Khatibi

nikan2@aol.com

Farah Minwalla

farahminwalla@hotmail.com

On Facebook? Join our group by searching 'Next Generation Now' or visit www.nextgennow.org.

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

MUKTAD PRAYERS 2008

Please complete this form in **BLOCK** letters with the correct status circled for each name and return this form by **AUGUST 8, 2008**, to:

MAIL FORM TO:

Ferzin Patel

Attn: Muktaḁ Prayers
137 CampHill Road,
Pomona, NY 10970

CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ZAGNY

Kindly include the following names in the daily prayers during the forthcoming Muktaḁ ceremonies.

- I am enclosing herewith my contribution of \$ _____ (@ \$5 per name, maximum of 6 names) to defray costs for this event.
- I am enclosing my contribution of \$ _____ (@\$5 per person), I/We _____ (# of people) will be attending the lunch, after the prayers, on August 17th, 2008. These monies will be used to defer the cost of this event.

Yours truly,

PRINT FULL NAME

TELEPHONE NUMBER

		Name of the Deceased		Names of His/Her Father/Husband
1	E O Oi B K		E O B	
2	E O Oi B K		E O B	
3	E O Oi B K		E O B	
4	E O Oi B K		E O B	
5	E O Oi B K		E O B	
6	E O Oi B K		E O B	

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 Athornan family)
B = Behdin (male/female from Behdin or non-priestly family)
K = Khurd (whose Navjote has not been performed)



PATETI MUBARAK

THE PATETI FUNCTION WILL BE HELD AT THE

DARBE MEHR

106 Pomona Road, Suffern, NY 10805

Tel. No. 845-362-2104

ON

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2008

PROGRAM:

6:15 P.M. REGISTRATION

6:30 P.M. "ATASH NIAYESH" PRAYER

7:00 P.M. COCKTAILS (7 to 8 P.M. ONLY)

8:00 P.M. K-Von – Comedian, featured in various
TV appearances- including Showtime and NBC
Performance will be followed by Dinner and Dancing

REGISTRATION PATETI FUNCTION

		NUMBER	AMOUNT
ADULTS	\$30.00	_____	_____
CHILDREN (5 TO 12)	\$20.00	_____	_____
SENIORS (65 & ABOVE)	\$20.00	_____	_____
NON-MEMBERS	\$45.00	_____	_____
DONATIONS			_____
	TOTAL:		_____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Tel.NO. HOME: _____ BUSINESS: _____ EMAIL : _____

Kindly mail your form with check made out to ZAGNY to:

KERMAN DUKANDAR

96 Bernard Avenue

Edison, New Jersey 08837

Tel. 732-494-7976; 732-742-2275 No phone reservations will be taken after Aug.17th

Reservations must be received by
August 17, 2008

Registration will be non-refundable

A surcharge of \$15.00 per person and \$25.00 per family will apply to all
registrations done at the door or received within 72 hours prior to the function

ZAGNY
106 Pomona Road
Suffern, NY 10901

Phone
845.362.2104

E-Mail
secretary@zagny.org

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 2008

6/20 BOOK RELEASE PARTY AT BRECHT FORUM – KAYHAN IRANI
6/28 PARSİ GENERAL HOSPİTAL FUND RAİSER

JULY 2008

7/12 (Saturday) ZAGNY ANNUAL PICNIC (details inside)

AUGUST 2008

8/17 MUKTAD PRAYERS AT THE DARBE MEHR (details inside)
8/23 PATETI FUNCTION (details inside)



CONGRATS TO OUR
Dads & Grads



ZAGNY

106 Pomona Rd.

Suffern, NY 10901

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.zagny.org