

ZAGNY

ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW YORK

September 2011 Newsletter

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THE XVI NORTH AMERICAN ZARATHUSHTI CONGRESS

BY: GEV NENTIN & FERZIN PATEL



"Start spreading the news", we're hosting in NY! ZAGNY has been selected to host the next **XVI North American Zarathushti Congress** in NY. After going through a lengthy bidding process, FEZANA's Congress Committee selected ZAGNY in partnership with IZA to host this large scale event. This one of a kind event will take place from August 2-5, 2012 at the Hilton Rye town in Rye, NY. The Hilton Rye Town hotel is situated on 45 beautifully landscaped acres of lush woodlands and is located in Westchester County, ten minutes east of White Plains and 45 minutes from New York City.

The theme of the Congress will explore *Zarathushti Existence in the Contemporary World*.

The Program Committee, chaired by Keki Dadachanji and his team of volunteers have been diligently working on combining a full spectrum of programming which is bound to interest Zarathushtis from all walks of life and generations. They have developed a program which consists of tracks focused on Core Beliefs, Zarathushti Identity, Community Organizing, Poverty, Generational issues, and Heritage. The program will also include a dynamic and inspirational Keynote speaker to kick off our event as well as The Khorshed Jungalwala lecturer soon to be announced. We will keep you all posted.

The Congress will provide a forum of how we, as Zarathushtis regard and define Zarathushti Identity in North America. A panel of Zarathushti individuals from all walks of life, beliefs, and backgrounds come together after having an on-going forum throughout the next 11 months, using a learning community group to explore and create a cooperative definition of Zarathushti Identity.

We will also explore the rituals of our faith, such as the Navjote ceremony and how it can be incorporated into our daily lives to make it more meaningful. The youth track will examine questions most relevant to young people growing up in North America. The heritage and poverty track will provide an insider's perspective of how poverty and the destruction of our heritage sites have stricken our homelands and how we in North America can best help these places. We will share more information with you as it develops through our Facebook page, 2012 North American Zarathushti Congress: New York, as well as our website, http://nazc.zagny.org.

The Social Committee, chaired by Khursheed Navder, has blasted off and established an array of events to keep you busy during the days and nights at the Congress. There will be plenty time to socialize, meet friends, sightsee New York City, and of course be a part of the Gala Night Spectacular on Saturday, August 4^{th} , 2012.

This will also be a special year for FEZANA, as they celebrate their 25th year in existence with a dinner on Thursday, August 2nd, 2012. You can also be a part of the long-established FEZANA Awards Luncheon which ZAGNY started back at the 1998 Congress. We will offer accommodations for families with children, (ages 4-12 years) including activities and social groups so that parents can attend the sessions without worry, as well as a special "Introduction to Zarathushti religion" conducted by our own Lovji Cama for individuals who seek out the basic ideas and religious understanding of our religion.

Within the next few months, you will see our registration package with all the information on the Congress, including pricing, options, and general schedule of events. We are excited to offer the registration package on-line along with on-line payment options.

As we are still in the planning stages of organizing our Congress, there is a lot of behind the scenes involvement which is being managed by the Congress Committees. Although our fundraising efforts for hosting the natak did not work out as we had planned, we have several other fundraising initiatives in the pipeline and hope that the community at large will be involved and help support these initiatives. As always, we cannot do any of these without the support and participation of our community.

If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering some time, or have a special talent or skill, please contact the Chairperson for the respective committees.

, ,	
Gev Nentin - Co-Chair for the XVI North American Zarathushti Congress	631-462-0763
Ferzin Patel - Co-Chair for the XVI North American Zarathushti Congress	845-354-5163
Mehru Cama - Logistics Committee	201-569-7359
Keki Dadachanji - Program Committee	973-895-5118
Kerman Dukandar - Finance Committee	732-494-7976
Homi Gandhi - Public Relations Committee	201-445-3917
Khursheed Navder - Social Committee	973-402-1813
Arzan Sam Wadia - Technology and Audio/Visual Committee	917-548-3747

On behalf of the Congress Committees, the ZAGNY and IZA Boards, we hope you will continue to support this effort.

Mark your calendars for what promises to be an extraordinary 4-day event of an unforgettable journey of the discovery of our *Existence in the Contemporary World*.

For more information please visit http://nazc.zagny.org



Facebook 2012 North American Zarathushti Congress: New York

EVENT UPDATES

PARSEE GENERAL HOSPITAL FUNDRAISER

BY: YASMIN & JAMSHED GHADIALI

The Ghadiali family would like to thank everyone for participating in the fundraiser and for their kind donations towards this very worthy cause.

Although this event is held once a year, the fundraiser is open year round. If you wish to donate, please send your checks payable to "ZAGNY – Critical Assistance Fund" and mention "Parsee General" or "Parsee Ambulance" in the memo line and mail to Yasmin & Jamshed Ghadiali, 2686 Belcher Street, Baldwin, NY 11510.

To learn more about The B.D.Petit Parsee General Hospital, please visit their new website at www.bdpetitparseegeneralhospital.org

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ZAGNY YOUTH PARTICIPATES AT THE VANCOUVER YOUTH CONGRESS

Recipients of the ZAGNY \$500 Traveling Scholars Grant, (in alphabetical order) Zarina Bamji, Tina Dukandar, Neville Dusaj, Adel Hodiwala and Karl Khambatta attended the 5th World Zoroastrian Youth Conference in Vancouver, Canada from June 30-July 5, 2011.

Read about their enriching experiences on our website at http://zagny.org/5wzyc/

ZAGNY ANNUAL PICNIC

The annual ZAGNY picnic held on Sunday, July 10th, 2011 was a great success. About 75 enthusiastic and fun-loving members made it to the Mercer County Park, NJ to enjoy the day with fun, food and friends. Of course, the highlight of the day was the special 'garam chai', without which no ZAGNY picnic is complete!

Many thanks (in alphabetical order) to Aban Chavda for organizing the games and prizes; Hoshi Merchant for sweating it out at the BBQ grill; Sam Shroff for all his help with the BBQ and games; to our many volunteers who helped with set-up and cleanup; and to all those who attended for making it a memorable day together!

MUKTAD PRAYERS BY: KHURSHEED NAVDER

The five days of the *Gathas* are considered to be very holy, and it is believed that during this period, the *fravashis* of our near and dear ones come down from their spiritual world into this material world and bless all those who remember and pray for them.

We would like to thank our host families, Percis & Vispi Daruwala, Teshtar & Noshir Irani, Jasmin & Maneck Kotwal, and Gool & Ramesh Thakarar, for graciously volunteering their homes to offer the prayer services during the *muktad* days. Prayers were attended by over 125 members at our Darbe Mehr on the first gatha--*Ahunavad* (possessing *Ahunavar* or the energy with which Ahura Mazda created this universe) on Sunday, August 14th, 2011. Thanks to our priests (in alphabetical order) Darius Antia, Xerxes Antia, Rohinton Dadina, Karl Khambatta, Rohinton Madon, and Pervez Patel for offering the special prayers and reciting all the names. The hall looked somberly beautiful —the flowers, divo, fire and the burning of sandalwood, created a virtual paradise on earth in honor of the visiting *fravashis*.

Thanks to Sheroo Kanga for preparing a simple, delicious, home cooked meal of *dhansak*, *kachumber*, *gravy chicken*, with *malido* for dessert; to Kamal Merchant and Dinyar Hodiwala for helping in the kitchen; and to Meherzeen Daruwala for coordinating the list of names to be recited by our priests. Our sincere appreciation to those who came in early and scrubbed the *khumchas* and *ses*, washed fruits and flowers, and got things ready for the prayers. It is owing to the efforts of such dedicated volunteers that our congregation has fortunately been able to observe the *fravardegan* days with religious fervor and piety.

PARSI NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Saal Mubarak Y.Z. 1381! Our Parsi New Year was celebrated at the Darbe Mehr on Saturday, August 20th, 2011. The event was attended by approximately 170 members and guests. The evening began with the recital of Yatha Ashem prayers led by Ervad Rohinton Madon.

A brief welcome by ZAGNY President, Mr. Gev Nentin, was followed by cocktails (thanks to our bartending team Rohinton Cama, Shailendra Dusaj and Shiroy Ranji) and appetizers of bhajiyas and delicious fresh-off-the-tawa dosas. A belly dance performance, by the talented Sarafina, entertained the audience and had everyone, young and old, join her on the floor as she performed to a couple of popular Bollywood hot picks.

The gathering took a walk down memory lane during the presentation for the New Darbe Mehr Initiative. A few nostalgic moments were shared by members as they watched the video prepared by Ferzin Patel, capturing our community's journey, growth and vision.

President, Gev Nentin, welcomed Dr. Jamshed Bharucha to our ZAGNY community and to New York, congratulating him on his appointment as the 12th President of The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art (the Institution, established in 1859 is amongst the nation's oldest and most distinguished institutions of higher education). Dr. Bharucha briefly addressed the gathering thanking everyone for the warm welcome extended to him.

The dinner spread catered by Malabar Hill Restaurant was enjoyed by guests while Khursheed Navder interested them in rounds of Bingo giving away two dinner vouchers to Akbar Restaurant, NJ as prizes to the winners. A big thank you to all our tots-n-teens who did a fantastic job of selling Bingo tickets to raise close to \$600! The evening was complete with dancing to current favorites played by our very own Neville Dusaj.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a success and to all our members and guests for celebrating Parsi New Year with us.

INDIA DAY PARADE

BY: ARZAN SAM WADIA

ZAGNY participated at the India Day Parade on Sunday, August 21, 2011. We had an enthusiastic representation of about 20 members from the youngest 14 month old to several 70+ year old participants. Kids under 10 years, three boys and one girl, in their dagli / Navjote dress led our group waving the Indian flag, providing great photo ops to the eager cameramen. Some of our group were interviewed on Star PLUS and ITV individually. The Parade was shown live in the US and in India on Times NOW.

Besides the participants, there was a ZAGNY spectator audience of about a dozen people following and cheering for ZAGNY. We hope you will be a part of the ZAGNY group at the next parade!

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16TH 2011 – UDVADA ATASH BEHRAM FUNDRAISER

Erach Munshi and Mehru & Lovji Cama will host the Annual Udvada Atash Behram Fundraiser on Sunday, October 16th, 2011 at the Darbe Mehr, Pomona. All funds collected will be donated towards the maintenance of Mumbai, Udvada, Surat and Navsari Atash Behrams and Agiaries; and also provide monetary support to the mobeds and needy Zoroastrians in the area.

To contribute, please make checks payable to "ZAGNY-Critical Assistance Fund" and mention "Udvada Atash Behram" in the memo line. For details, please call Erach Munshi at (212)865-6683.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22ND 2011 – DANDIYA RAAS AT THE DARBE MEHR

Join us on Saturday, October 22nd, 2011, 6:30pm onwards at the Darbe Mehr for an evening of music, dandiya raas and garba to celebrate Diwali 2011! Tickets \$25 adults, \$10 children (age 10 years and below) includes "all-you-can-eat CHAAT." Bring along your friends and participate in this fundraiser towards the XVI North American Zarathushti Congress, 2012.

Register online at http://zagny.org/dandiya2011 or mail completed registration form on page 7.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH 2011 - JAMVA CHALO JI

Save the date for an event you don't want to miss! JAMVA CHALO JI promises to be a truly memorable evening complete with lagan nu bhonu, toe-tapping favorite old melodies, and entertainment that is going to be a blast from the past!

Come on, air out those garas and daglis and get ready to enjoy an evening you will be talking about for a long time to come! Watch out for further details and registration information.

Fundraiser for the XVI North American Zarathushti Congress, 2012.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ARBAB RUSTAM GUIV 31ST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

October 7th, 2011 marks the 31st death anniversary of our benefactor Arbab Rustam Guiv. Without him and his wife, Khanum Morvarid's generous and benevolent hearts, the New York area Zarathushti community would not have had a place to call it's own. Our growing and thriving community will forever be grateful to them. A short prayer in their memory will be recited by our Ervad Pervez Patel at the October 2nd religious class. We pray to Ahura-Mazda to bless their souls and shower their blessings on us all!

REQUESTING VOLUNTEERS TO HELP CLEAN PRAYER ROOM AT DARBE MEHR

Our Ervad Pervez Patel sends out this appeal to enlist your help with the upkeep of our prayer room at the Darbe Mehr. Please spend just a few minutes of your time when you visit the Darbe Mehr to clean the sacred prayer room; arrange prayer books, chairs, frames etc.; and make sure there is adequate sukhad-lobaan-tachho, tea-lights and other supplies. Thank you, in advance!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

Thank you to our many generous donors who contributed spontaneously at the Parsi New Year's function on August 20th, 2011, after the New Darbe Mehr Initiative presentation. \$3,801 was collected towards the New Building Fund.

New Darbe Mehr Initiative (NDMI) LLC members extend a special thank you to all the donors who have generously contributed towards the New Building Fund and helped the fundraising efforts with their valuable pledges / donations.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

To show your support, please return the completed Pledge / Donation Form on page 10 – thank you!



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Seeking the highest goals...

That we build the brightest tomorrows"

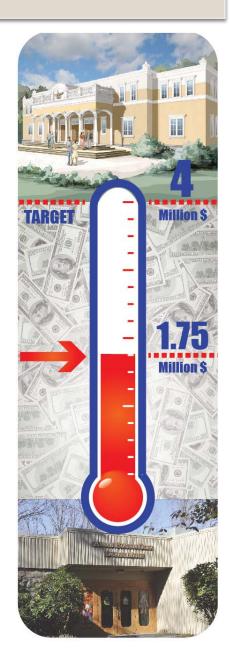


PHOTO GALLERY

5TH WORLD ZOROASTRIAN YOUTH CONGRESS IN VANCOUVER







ZAGNY ANNUAL PICNIC







MUKTAD PRAYERS







PARSI NEW YEAR CELEBRATION







INDIA DAY PARADE











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COMMUNITY CORNER

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT



Grandparents Gool and Farrokh Patel are delighted to share the news of the First Birthday of their grand-daughter, *ARA*, born on April 28, 2010, to their daughter Roshan and her husband Brandon Kelly. Aunts Zarine Patel and Shenaz Patel welcome little Ara.



Khushroo and Parynaz Vimadalal were blessed with a second baby boy **DARIEN VIMADALAL** on July 22, 2011 at Overlook Hospital in Summit, NJ. Freyaan is thrilled to be a big brother. Grandparents Kashmira and (late) Dinyar Vimadalal of Mumbai, India and ZAGNY members Firdosh and Maharukh Mehta of Springfield, NJ welcome little Darien.



Shanaz and Arvin Martin were blessed with a baby girl, **AVA RYAN** on August 8, 2011. Grandparents Hutoxi and Dinshaw Bardoliwalla are delighted to welcome little Ava.

ZAGNY welcomes our newest additions to the community

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT

Congratulations to Dinci and Nausheer Avari on the wedding of their son Jimmy to Janki, daughter of Shilpa and Sudhir Modi, on Saturday, September 3, 2011, in New Jersey.



SAD DEMISE



Harash Saigal, 78, husband of Kamlesh Saigal, father of Tina Daroowalla and Adarsh Saigal, father-in-law of Mehernosh Daroowalla and Marzena Saigal, grandfather of Rayan Daroowalla and Jai Saigal, owner of Gazebo Group of Restaurants in India and Namaskar–Cuisine of India in NJ, passed away on June 15, 2011 in Maywood, NJ.

Homai Birdie, wife of late Firoz Birdie, mother of Khurshed Birdie and Nilufer Mama, mother-in-law of Mitzie Birdie and Danny Mama passed away on July 6, 2011 in Toronto.

Arjun, brother of Mrinalini Nair, brother-in-law of Sherazad Mehta, passed away in a tragic accident on September 15, 2011 in Bangalore, India

ZAGNY extends it's heartfelt condolences to the grieving families

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

<u>COMPASS AWARD FOR ZAGNY MEMBER KAYHAN IRANI:</u> WOMEN IN ISLAM, an organization of Muslim women dedicated to social justice, awarded KAYHAN IRANI with their COMPASS AWARD at the annual Dr. Betty Shabazz Awards Ceremony luncheon on June 26, 2011.

The Compass Award recognizes Kayhan's work of forging ahead in new directions and leading in the right direction in unfamiliar terrain.

BLACK BELT FOR FARAH PAVRI:

Farah was one of the youngest to earn her 1st Degree Black belt from the Edgewater Kung Fu Academy. She is seen here receiving the certificate from her instructors.



Farah started learning Kung Fu in September 2007. Now almost four years later, she was one of the youngest to get her 1st Degree Black Belt in a class of about 49 students.

ZAGNY congratulates Kayhan and Farah on their achievement!

THE NEW DARBE MEHR PROJECT - PLEDGE / DONATION FORM

YES! I WOULD LIKE TO SHOW MY SUPPORT TOWARDS THE NEW DARBE MEHR BUILDING PROJECT

1. Personal Information

Last Name: First Name: Address: City: _____ Zip: _____ Zip: _____ Home Phone: _____ Email: _____ 2. I would like to show my support with a gift of - \$________ \$100,000 / \$50,000 / \$25,000 / \$10,000 / \$5,000 (Please note that gifts of \$100,000 and more will be recognized by permanent naming of various rooms in the new Darbe Mehr. Please contact Toos Daruvala at toosdaruvala@aol.com / Edul Daver at daver@acupowder.net for details) 3. Gift Options CHECK ENCLOSED - Check # (Please make check payable to "Darbe Mehr Zoroastrian Temple/Special New Building Fund") **SECURITIES** (Stocks, Bonds etc.) Estimated Value: \$_ (Please contact DMZT-Treasurer, Minu Dutia at dutiaminu@yahoo.com for transfer instructions & other details) **PLEDGE** OF \$______ to be paid (please circle one) ONE-TIME / ANNUALLY / SEMI-ANNUALLY / QUARTERLY / MONTHLY Number of Installments ______; Beginning (month/year)____/__ (should be same as in Item 2 above) For a total gift of \$_____ 4. Please designate my gift (Please write name(s) as you would like them to appear on the Donor List) In HONOR OF, NAME: In MEMORY OF, NAME:_____ In MY FAMILY NAME: **ANONYMOUS** 5. Donor List I CONSENT to disclosing the name(s) listed in Item 4 above on the Donor List on a website, e-blast communications or printed in ZAGNY newsletters ☐ WITH the amount of my gift where amounts are stated ☐ WITHOUT the amount of my gift where amounts are stated I do NOT wish to disclose the names listed in Item 4 above on the Donor List on a website, e-blast communications or printed in ZAGNY newsletters Date - MM / DD / YYYY Signature

Please return form to: Minu Dutia, DMZT-Treasurer, 5 Amethyst Court, West Nyack, New York 10994

Darbe Mehr Zoroastrian Temple is a 501(c)3 organization. Your gifts may qualify for federal and state tax deductions or credits as laws allow. Please consult your tax advisor for the actual tax deductibility of your gift. A receipt will be sent to you after your gift has been received.



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THANK YOU!

Zarir Karai for your devoted services over the years in maintaining and keeping the Prayer Room at our Darbe Mehr spotlessly clean on every religious class day as well as on all other religious ceremony days. We appreciate your dedication and service to the community!



FEZANA

FEDERATION OF ZOROASTRIAN SAME

Read the latest FEZANA bulletin at -

FEZANA Bulletin: http://zagny.org/downloads/ FZ_vol1_issue3.pdf



FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER TEAM

If you do not wish to receive future ZAGNY Newsletters, please contact a Newsletter Team Member listed below.

To receive your newsletter online, please sign-up at –

http://zagny.org/list/?p=subscribe&id=1

Questions and suggestions? Contact -

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"Satisfaction linked with dishonor or with harm to others is a prison for the seeker" Vahishto-Ishti Gatha; Yasna 53, 6



OCTOBER 2011

10/02, Sunday

- ZAGNY RELIGION CLASS
- ARBAB RUSTAM GUIV 31ST DEATH ANNIVERSARY PRAYER

10/16, Sunday

 ÚDVÁDA ATASH BEHRAM FUNDRAISER

10/22, Saturday

 "DANDIYA RAAS AT THE DARBE MEHR"

NOVEMBER 2011

11/06, Sunday

- ZAGNY RELIGION CLASS
- HALLOWEEN PARTY

11/12, Saturday

• "JAMVA CHALO JI"

DECEMBER 2011

12/03, Sunday

ZAGNY RELIGION CLASS

12/31, Saturday

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY