



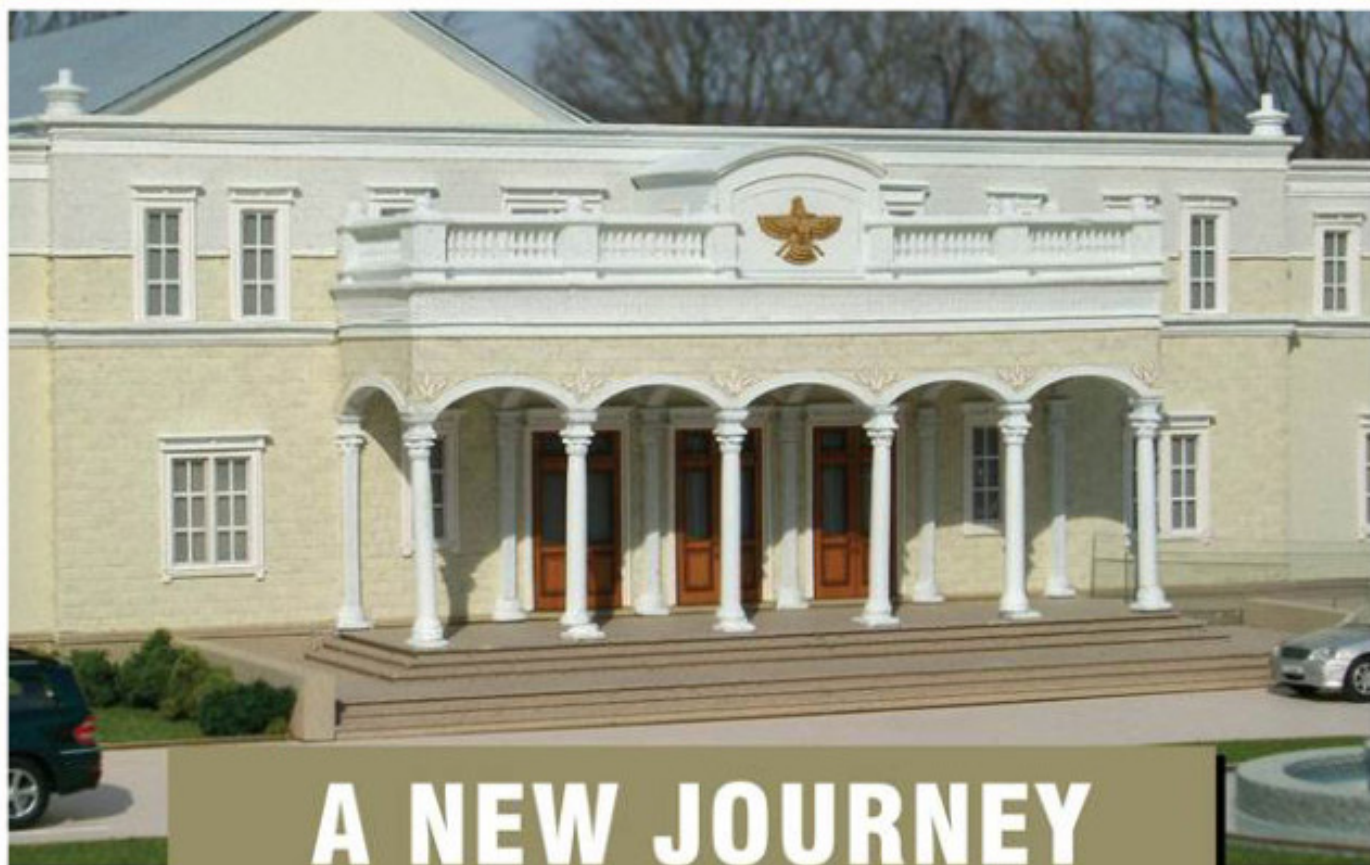
**ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION
OF GREATER NEW YORK**

**SEPTEMBER
2015**

NEWSLETTER

**SUNDAY
13
SEPTEMBER
2015
12:00
NOON**





A NEW JOURNEY HAS BEGUN...

**HUNDREDS OF YEARS LATER, THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY,
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The Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York (ZAGNY) invites you to join us to build a new home where we will preserve our faith, grow the Zoroastrian community and create a legacy for future generations.



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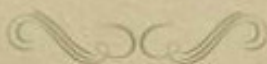
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Your generous contributions and participation will go towards building a new Dar-e-Mehr. All contributors of ₹10,000 and higher will be recognized and invited to the opening ceremony in New York. One lucky contributor will receive **two (2) free round trip tickets to New York** and a **complimentary 3-night stay** with a Zoroastrian family.

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A NEW HOME FOR A NEW GENERATION





**ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION
OF GREATER NEW YORK**

SEPTEMBER

2015

NEWSLETTER

ZAGNY'S FOUNDING PRESIDENT ERACH MUNSHI PASSES AWAY

OBITUARY BY DR. LOVJI CAMA

With great sorrow ZAGNY reports the passing away of its founding member and first president, Prof. Erach Munshi on Saturday July 25th, 2015.



Our deepest condolences go out to Erach's family and friends, and we wish them strength during this difficult time.

Erach played a pivotal role in the early history of ZAGNY. Even before ZAGNY was formed, Erach and a few friends used to organize dinners for Jamshedi Nowroze and Shenshahi Nowroze, inviting

every Zoroastrian in the metropolitan area they could find. In 1973, the community organized itself into the Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York, and Erach served as the first president for two terms. As president, he played a leading role in the search and acquisition of the property that would become the first Arbab Rustom Guiv Darbe-Mehr in North America. The Darbe-Mehr became the home of ZAGNY and the first Zoroastrian Community Center in North America. When the Darbe-Mehr Zoroastrian Temple was created to manage the property, Erach served as one of the first six trustees. Again in

1986, when the need arose, Erach was elected as president of ZAGNY and served two more terms.

Erach and his late wife Perin lived in New York for many years. In the early years of the community many people coming to New York from India were given his name and phone number by friends in India, in case they ran into trouble or needed a place to stay for a few days. As a professor in business administration at St. John's University he has often been helpful in pointing fresh graduates towards job opportunities and has used his contacts to help young people and new comers to the area to find jobs.

About 35 years ago, Erach and his wife Perin began inviting the community to a lunch at the Dar-E-Mehr to raise money for the Udvada Fund. The fund was used to help the poor, primarily priests in Udvada, Surat and Navsari and the surrounding towns and villages. Today the fund collects \$30-35,000 each year, not only from members of the ZAGNY community, but also from donors all over North America. Every penny collected was sent to various charities and temples in India and Erach personally checked on the proper distribution of the Udvada Fund each time he visited India.

Erach is survived by his nephew Feroze Munshi and Feroze's two children Hanoz and Minaz, who Erach helped to immigrate to the US.

TRIBUTE TO DINSHAW FRAMROZE

BARDOLIWALLA

BY NENSHAD BARDOLIWALLA

Dinshaw Bardoliwalla was born on January 19, 1945 in Mumbai, India. His life was anchored by two key pillars: his undying love for his family and his steadfast dedication to professional excellence.

Dinshaw's family was everything to him. He was a dedicated husband who was married to his wife Hutoxi for 44 years and after dating for 7 years. He was a dedicated older brother to his younger brother Hosi and very close to his sister Dinaz,

whom he adored and whom he never lived further than a couple of hours away from for most of their lives. He was also a great brother-in-law, who grew up with and was close to his brothers Rohinton, Sohrab, and Noshir and sisters Freny, Yasmin, and Farida. He was a caring father, who took great pains to ensure he provided a better life for his children Nenshad and Shanaz than he had when he was growing up. He was a loving uncle, who was ever present in the lives of his nieces Anita, Shereen, and Farzeen, and his nephews Percy, Kaizad, Jehangir, and Zarayus. He was a good friend to many in the Parsi community and a role model for younger Zoroastrians, having been a stalwart in the community since the mid 1970's serving as Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer of ZAGNY. But the role he cherished the most was that of being a grandfather, as he adored his six grandchildren Asha, Tyrese, Zara, Ava, Vera,

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ZAGNY BOARD 2014 – 2017

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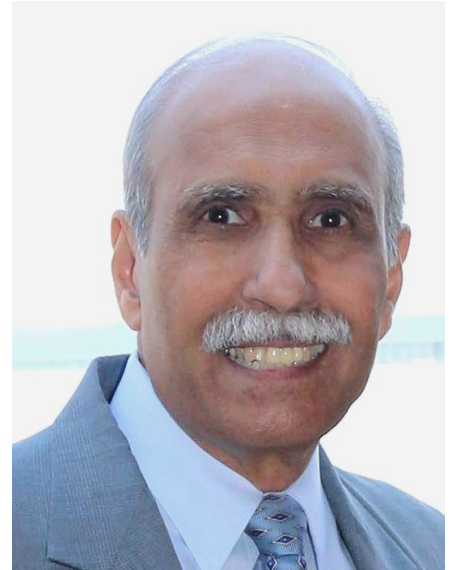
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and Sophia.

Dinshaw also had a steadfast dedication to professional excellence. In his early years, his love of fun masked any sense of personal ambition, and he didn't take his education seriously, even failing his interscience year. But after truly understanding the sacrifices his parents made to give him the opportunity, and at their insistence not to take a job but to finish school no matter what, Dinshaw attacked his education and career with a singular-minded focus. Not being afraid to forge his own path or take great risks, he came to the United States in 1968 with his brother-in-law Noshir with less than \$10. Working with his wife at textile mills to make ends meet, he completed his Masters and Ph.D. degrees at UMass Lowell in 1972. From there he had a long and distinguished professional career, first as a bench chemist with numerous patents to his name, to culminating in his final role as a VP of R&D at Rust-oleum. Even when it was no longer necessary for him to work, it was his work ethic that became the only other thing that defined the essence of who he was in addition to his family centrality.

As characterized by those who knew him well, Dinshaw was witty, gracious, humble, and always demonstrated a lot of integrity. But most importantly, he was determined. This is a man who was stubborn enough to drive himself



home from the hospital after a surgery and fought cancer until his last breath. All of these characteristics were on full display in his last days, as he never lost his mental acumen or sense of humor, and was more worried about how we would be after he was gone than his own fate.

Dinshaw Bardoliwalla died on July 14, 2015 after two weeks of being constantly surrounded by his entire family. His life was the embodiment of the American dream. He arrived as a poor Zoroastrian immigrant from Mumbai with nothing and worked until the final year of his life to become a personal and professional success. We are all his legacy.

THANK YOU ...

To all our ZAGNY Family of Friends for your kind condolence messages, emails, cards, phone calls and for attending our beloved Mum **Tehmi E. Lavangia's** funeral ceremony and prayers.

Mum lived a long and happy life and we shall miss her dearly.

Sharing your wonderful memories of her and comforting words will help us through our difficult time of grief and great loss. The love and respect each and everyone has shown our beloved Mum over the years meant a lot to us. Thank you for helping us make her golden years happy and memorable.

And a Very Big Thank You to all who donated to the DMZT-NBF in Mum's memory. You have truly honored her and touched our hearts.

Ushta-te. With gratitude and affection, **PIROJA & RUSI PRESS**

"ASHODAD" OR "KADR-DANI" FOR PERFORMANCE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES PROVIDED BY MOBEDS IN NORTH AMERICA



In response to requests from several North American Zoroastrian Associations, we provide guidelines for "Ashodad" or "Kadr-Dani" for performance of religious services provided by Mobeds in North America.

Following extensive consultations, NAMC has developed these guidelines for the benefit of the families requesting religious services as well as the Mobeds; and with a view to ensure that the North American communities continue benefiting from the religious ceremonies, education and counsel provided by the next generation of Mobeds while being fairly compensated for their services.

We intend these to be guidelines and we emphasize that a family's financial ability should be given utmost importance. We believe that no family should be discouraged from availing services of a Mobed for financial restraints. We also acknowledge that, where appropriate, geographical and logistical variations should be given their due consideration.

We encourage your association to publicize these guidelines in your communications for the benefit of your members.

Sincerely,

Kobad Zarolia, President , North American Mobed Council (NAMC)

ASHODAD / KADR-DANI GUIDELINES

BY NORTH AMERICAN MOBEDS COUNCIL (NAMC)

In response to requests from several North American Zoroastrian Associations, NAMC provides the following guidelines for "Ashodad" or "Kadr-Dani" for performance of religious services provided by Mobeds invited by the family:

Weddings / Gavah / Navjote / Sudreh –Pushi: \$ 500 per Mobed per ceremony

Jashan / Jashan–Khani / Afargan / Seeom/ Saal: \$ 250 per Mobed per ceremony

Funeral Ceremonies:

Geh Saarnu, , Sarosh nu Patru,

Day Uthamnu, Night Uthamnu,

Chaharom. \$ 250 per Mobed per ceremony

Sareh Khak, Poreshe \$ 500 per Mobed per ceremony

Travel and accommodation (in addition to above amounts): Pre-paid Air ticket and / or mileage as appropriate Overnight accommodation as appropriate

Use of Association facilities and supplies: As per Association regulations

This list is intended to be a guide and is not mandatory. Consideration should be given to geographical and logistical variations through North America and financial ability of the family requesting these prayers. These guidelines are subject to change.

Issued: May 2015

THE NORTH AMERICAN MOBEDS COUNCIL

WWW.NAMCMOBEDS.ORG

RELIGION CLASS CHILDREN'S GRADUATION 2015

BY MEHERZEEN DARUWALA

Aah graduation! Signaling the end of another year for our young students. This year we changed the graduating class timing to coincide with the school year. The students knew that this would be the last class for the year, and were excited to be out for the



summer and done with school. At the ceremony, each teacher first gave a short description of the class curriculum and student body, and then presented certificates to the students. These certificates of class completion acknowledged each student's attendance and recognized his/her efforts.

The community would like to thank all our teachers and assistants, who volunteer their time and efforts to work so hard to create wonderful teaching material for the kids. This year, Avan Patel and Pearl Ball were assisted by Tanaz Karai to teach our youngest class - Class 1. Shiraz Antia was assisted by Farrah Randelia in Class 2. Class 3 was held under the leadership of Lovji Cama, with assistance from Friya Randelia. The duo of Daulat and Xerxes Kotval were tasked with managing the 4th and final year of the program. A big shout out as always to Lovji Cama, our Dean of Religious Studies and to Ervad Pervez Patel, who teaches our children their prayers. This year our children participated in thanking their teachers, as one representative from each class presented their teachers and assistants with a little token of the community's appreciation. A special thanks goes out to all the families who attended and participated in the classes. We want to thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules each month to bring your children to attend the religious classes.

PARSEE GENERAL HOSPITAL FUNDRAISER

As they do each year the Ghadialis hosted a successful fundraiser at their residence on June 27, 2015. The letter below from Yasmin and Jamshed spells out what a valiant and rewarding effort this has been over the years. Our many thanks to the "ever caring"

Ghadialis. ZAGNY would like to encourage those that may not have yet donated this year to kindly do so for this very worthwhile cause.

Dear friends,

Last year was our 28th Annual Fundraiser for The B. D. Petit Parsee General Hospital. Thanks to all of you we raised a total of \$36,800 which was sent to the Hospital by wire transfer. We also sent a sum of \$600 for the Parsi Ambulance Division.

The funds, as always, are to be used specifically for distributing free and subsidized medications to the poor and needy Zoroastrians. Every cent collected has been sent.

The Hospital is grateful to all of you for your generous donations. It helps to give services to the poor in spite of accelerating health care costs. The Hospital writes that the cost of free medicines was Rs. 9,040,000 in 2012; free diagnostics and rehabilitation care cost another Rs 15,300,000.

Please send your donations made payable to 'ZAGNY-Critical Assistance Fund' and mention in the memo, "Parsee General Hospital" and mail it to our address given below. This appeal is sent once a year, but the fundraiser is open throughout the year. Please communicate this appeal to all your friends and family. Every donation irrespective of the amount is very important to the Hospital.

We sincerely thank all our Zoroastrian friends from USA and Canada for your tremendous support, encouragement, and generous donations for an extremely worthy cause—taking care of our sick and needy.

Sincerely,

YASMIN AND JAMSHED GHADIALI

2686 Belcher Street, Baldwin, NY 11510-3937

(516) 378-4516 or ghad@optonline.net

ZAGNY ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC 2015

BY NATASHA DUSAJ

With forecasters predicting temperature soaring up in the high 90s on July 19th, we were not sure how many would turn up this year. However even scorching temperatures could not keep our fun loving ZAGNYites at bay and we had a good turnout with about 50 attendees. Since we all had liked the site and facilities last year, the picnic was once again at the Spruce Run recreation area. There was a nice diversity in the age of the attendees--our youngest toddler was Asha Gandhi who appeared to be having a great time and we also had a dog named Simba who kept the kids entertained.

While many chose to stay in the shade to stay near the fans and attempt to beat the heat, some guys sacrificed their comfort to get the grill going. With loads of chicken, corn, and even



some steak, the grilled food was terrific. In addition there were sandwiches, samosas, chips, guacamole and a lot of other stuff I did not try and hence cannot recall. The dessert table was also loaded with fresh watermelon, brownies, cookies, etc. Since it was Behroze Aunty and Astad Uncle's Wedding Anniversary, we had them cut a pineapple-upside down cake and sang and wished them.

As everyone enjoyed the plethora of food, some were caught off guard when they were suddenly shot in the back by water gun wielding kids. Despite some boundaries being set, nobody was safe once they stepped out of the picnic area. Still, everyone had to admit that getting some cold water splashed onto them felt great in the heat. The day ended in a massive water war between all the kids that ended in water guns being substituted by cups filled with water. All participants got thoroughly soaked, and there was no need to declare a winner.

While the kids enjoyed their water activities, the adults began a game of antakshari singing desi golden oldies songs. Then it was time for choi (yes despite the heat, the afternoon tea is a must for our bawajis!) and a second round of bhel before folks started wrapping up. All in all another fun summer event spent with friends and family.

NEVILLE N. DUSAJ AT THE SMITHSONIAN

BY KHURSHEED NAVDER DUSAJ

Last year in April 2014, I recall seeing an email with the subject line "Neville at the Smithsonian." We all know how common this bawaji name is and so I skipped that email and dove into others that needed immediate attention. Later that night I happened to see it again and clicked the attachment to see what this Neville had done when lo and behold I saw that it was my Neville! I immediately forwarded it to him asking what it was all about but

he was no help and replied saying, "I have no idea haha." I then shot a reply to Dilshad Marolia, who had sent the initial email and she mentioned seeing the quote at the Beyond Bollywood exhibition, adding, "Anyway-his name is now painted on the wall at the Smithsonian. You can feel proud." Of-course, within no time this proud mom had forwarded the quote to family and friends. Many of you must have flooded Neville's inbox with congratulations messages because I received his exasperated



text the next day enquiring "why I was forwarding the silly quote to everyone."

It appears that in May 2013, a Communications Associate from an Interfaith group had contacted ZAGNY Secretary, Sheroo Kanga looking to interview young Zoroastrians and she had forwarded the email addresses of our youngsters to him. Neville recalls being interviewed by someone in Summer 2013. When asked where he went to school he had mentioned U Penn, Philadelphia and hence no mention of ZAGNY on the wall.

Over the last 14 months we've been meaning to visit the exhibit

and finally this July, just a few weeks before the exhibit was to close we made it to the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. The exhibit "Beyond Bollywood: Indian Americans Shape the Nation" (2/27/14 – 8/16/15) was quite interesting and explored the heritage, daily experiences and diverse contributions that Indian immigrants and Indian Americans have made to shaping the United States. It had various sections showcasing the history of Indian immigration, spiritual and religious influences and the contributions and achievements of Indian Americans in the areas of academics, science, sports, arts, food and more.

One section showcased the diverse religious perspectives with a wall of quotes from Indian Americans of various faiths and that is where we found Neville's quote on Zoroastrianism. (Photograph above: Neville standing below his quote; picture on left: a monitor displaying a picture of dastoorjis and the quote appears on it).

I want to thank you all for your congratulations messages. Below are the first few from our well wishers--



- Awesome..... Good job Nev. Very well said. Proud, Yasu Masi & Nozer Masa
- Couldn't expect less from our dear Nev!! So proud of him. Jasely Mami

and Kerman Mama

- This is AWESOME! Congratulations!!.....newsletter worthy :) Nina Mistry

- Neville shall change the mind set of conservative Parsees of Mumbai & one day they will accept that Zarathustra's teachings were for the entire mankind & not only for few selected Parsees of Mumbai. He explained every thing in three simple words the entire way of being happy in life. Big thanks to Neville for keeping the Zoroastrian flag high in US. Meherwan Masa

- Wow, Congrats to Nevs and to the proud mom and dad. And I am the proud Masi! Kudos again to Nevs!! Perviz Parbhoo

- Congratulate Neville for us. A very nice and fine young son you have. We all are very proud of him as you are. Pervez uncle

- Woohoo Neville !! Today at the Smithsonian in a Bollywood themed exhibition. Tomorrow in Bollywood.....with his multifaceted entertainment talent !! :) Awesome....and rightly a proud mom! arZan

- Congrats Nev, so proud to have you represent. What a great quote!!! Ferzin

- What an honor!! Congratulations to Neville and his mom, the source of his Zoroastrianism. Arlene Spark (she is K's colleague at Hunter College)

- Something to be proud of indeed. What's even greater is that he's so modest. We wish Neville much success and many more accolades to come. Rohi and Mahrukh Cama

- Such wonder.....really! Our children take in what we deliver..... We nourish and grow their spirits.....with good thoughts..... good words,....good deeds! And, lo and behold, we witness the emergence of extraordinary and beautiful human beings.... prepared to transform our waiting world! Love to all!!!!!! Edwina Marchev (she is Nev's 5th grade teacher)

- Wow, Congratulations & we share the pride! Brenda and Raj Ramachandran

- Fantastic! We are all very proud of him too. Will try to make it to the Natural History Museum to see the original if we can. Daulat Kotval

- Thanks for sharing it with me. It is always a proud moment when our children do something good!!! Regards, Kashmiri Karai

- Wow!! This is wonderful! I was just in DC last week and somehow missed this. Do give my love to Neville when you speak with him. XO Piroozi Cooper

- Many congratulations!! We should add this in the 'recognition' section of our newsletter. It definitely serves as an inspiration and an acknowledgement/encouragement of one's awareness towards our religious ideologies. Thanks much!! Zubin P. Dumasia

- Congratulations! That's great for Neville and the Z community. Edul Daver

- That is a great quote. Gool Thakarakar

- This is fantastic! Congratulations and a proud moment for all of us, and the entire ZAGNY community. -Ashok Mittal

MUKTAD FARVARDEGAN 2015 AT ZAGNY

BY KAYOMARZ KHAMBATTA

Muktdad or Farvardegan are rituals and prayers which are performed before the New Year. In ancient times, Muktdad was practiced for 18 days. But in recent times, it is done for 10 days. And we here at Zagny do it for 5 days (Gatha days). "Muktdad" is – Mukta * Atma means "Free Soul". And "Farvardegan" in Pahlavi means "Days of nourishment." Together, they bring in the true meaning of these days. On these days the priests recite the Afringan, Farrokshi, Satoom and the Baj prayers for the departed souls. As the Avesta says, our dear departed ones come down to visit the earth singing: "Who will praise us? Who will offer us prayers? Who will meditate upon us? Who will love us? Who will receive us and welcome us spiritual and with a prayer worthy of bliss?"

In keeping with traditional practice, Zagny arranged for prayers



for our community at different locations to accommodate all our members across the tri-state. Community members sent in names of their dear departed ones and the priests recited these names in the prayers. The prayers at different locations were organized and managed by Ervad Pervez Patel. And the prayers were performed by Ervad Pervez Patel, Ervad Rohinton Madon, Ervad Noshir Karanjia, Ervad Rohinton Dadina, Ervad Xersis Antia and Ervad Karl Khambatta.



Muktaad prayer ceremony there every year.

Food was catered by Mehernosh Daroovala with Dhansak dal, Brown rice, Kebobs and vinegar kachumber (Parsi style). Sheroo Kanga as always, graciously provided maledo to all the host families.

Together around 150-200 community members attended the ceremonies and all the prayer locations had wonderful set-up with fruits, flowers, nuts, sweets etc. as offerings for the departed Farvashis.

On behalf of the entire community the Zagny Board would like to sincerely thank all the host families, for opening their homes and hearts for the community prayers, Ervad Pervez Patel and all the priests for reciting the Muktaad prayers, and Mehernosh Daroovala for catering the food. Last but not the least, Zagny extends its gratitude to all the volunteers for their time and effort in organizing the Muktaad prayers.

PARSI NEW YEAR FUNCTION

BY DARIUS DARUWALA

Navroze Mubarak! ZAGNY celebrated Parsi New Year at the Greek Orthodox Church in Tenafly, NJ on Saturday, August 22nd, 2015. The event was attended by approximately 125 members and guests.

The ZAGNY Board members, along with their spouses, did a splendid job in setting up the venue to make it a memorable night. Shailender Dusaj, our bartender extraordinaire, took his post behind the bar, to make sure that the drinks kept flowing. Meherzeen Daruwala and Kerman Dukandar manned the receiving desk with help from little Zara Shroff, welcoming all who arrived for the event.

The evening was underway, as guests enjoyed a cocktail hour with appetizers, mingling and catching up with folks they had perhaps not seen in a while. After appetizers, we were enlightened by a presentation from our featured speakers, Brigadier Behram Panthaki (Retd.) and his wife Zenobia Panthaki. ZAGNY President, Astad Clubwala, welcomed our guest speakers with a brief introduction.

The Brigadier and Zenobia Panthaki spoke about the life and times of Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw of the Indian Army.



This year the prayers were held from August 13 to August 17 and our gracious hosts were Jasmin & Manek Kotwal; Pam & Fali Shroff; Dinaz & Farhad Subjally; Teshtar & Noshir Irani; and Gool & Ramesh Thakarak.



Generally, the Sunday Muktaad prayers are held at the Darbe-Meher, but due to the ongoing construction, we were unable to host the prayers there. However, Behroze and Astad Clubwala were kind enough to offer their residence in Hawthorne, NJ for conducting the prayer ceremony. Once the construction of our new Dar-e-Meher is completed, we look forward to holding our



Brigadier Panthaki shared some interesting personal stories and episodes that he had encountered, during his service as ADC to Field Marshal Manekshaw. Brigadier Panthaki also spoke about the Field Marshal's approach to life and some of his interesting quirks and ideologies. Mrs. Panthaki talked about the human side of Sam Manekshaw - the man behind the uniform, as experienced by the spouses and families of the personnel under his command. Both spoke very fondly of the Field Marshal, and held him in their highest esteem. Their speech was followed with a slideshow and a question and answer session. The Panthakis displayed their book on Field Marshal Manekshaw, which is currently on sale. It was very well received by all present, as several copies were purchased that night. A large percentage of the royalties from the book sales will go towards the Wounded Warriors Fund of the Indian Army.

After the presentation, everyone enjoyed dinner, which was catered by ZAGNY member Mehernosh Daroowala of Karma Café. Stuffed with delicious food and drink, the evening ended with a raffle prize and hugs goodbye. Thank you to all those that planned and prepared for the evening. A wonderful time was had by all. Happy New Year!

ERACH MUNSHI – ZAGNY'S FIRST PRESIDENT – SMILES DOWN AT US...

CELEBRATION OF A GLORIOUS LIFE..... 1930-2015.

BY: BEHROZE A. CLUBWALA

"There were three things that my Kaka devoted his life to: ZAGNY, St. John's University and the management of his apartment building" said Hanoz Munshi of his grand uncle at the Memorial Service on Sunday, August 30, 2015. Representation from all three groups of these friends filled the hall at the event hosted by ZAGNY at St. John's University, Queens, NY.

The program was meticulously prepared: Opening with a Hambandhagi by Ervad Pervaz Patel, opening remarks by Astad Clubwala, Erach's early years in India by Framroze Patel, his ZAGNY contributions by Lovji Cama, a University perspective from Dean Victoria Shoaf and a family perspective by his grand

nephew Hanoz Munshi... indeed a glorious life. An excellent slide show prepared by Arzan Wadia allowed the group present to reminisce about Erach's life. A beautiful duet by Cyrus Mehta on the violin and Liley Mehta on the Cello –Tomaso Albinoni (Arr by Marion Maby) – Adagio in G Minor, crowned the event.

The tributes were sincere and true to the great man that he was – he was kind, he was determined to put the Zoroastrians in NY on the map and create a legacy for them, he was dedicated, he put the welfare of all his Zoroastrian friends above all else, he worked tirelessly to help everyone who called him. In the early 60s when many young Zoroastrians came from India,



they travelled to the shores of the US with only his name and telephone number! Erach did not disappoint anyone. He was a true friend that everyone leaned on. From college admissions to immigration, he was the go to person in the community while establishing his own career and home in New York City with his wife Perin. Erach had time for everyone. All the speakers from ZAGNY, some choking back tears, told stories of Erach's interventions, from apartments he found for them, to jobs and sometimes even spouses! He always had everyone covered. His contact list was extensive and he was resourceful and genuine.

Framroze Patel, talked about the humble beginnings of Erach





in an orphanage in Surat; Lovji Cama described his time in the early 60s when Erach was the key motivator in bringing all the Zoroastrians together, first at his own home and then at various locations, which then led to the creation of ZAGNY in 1973. Erach was single-minded when it came to his determination to create a “home” for the Parsis in the Tri-state area. In 1975 Dr. Rustom Sarfeh attended the Shanshahi Nowruz dinner, and Erach, along with others, spoke of their dream of having their own Zoroastrian Center. On a visit to Iran a couple of months later Dr. Sarfeh met Arbab Rustom and Khanum Morvarid Guiv and told them about the Zoroastrian community in the New York area. Arbab Guiv’s donation then led to the purchase in 1977 of our New Rochelle Darbe Mehr, the first Zoroastrian Center in North America.



Dean Victoria Shoaf described him as a solid member of her team, very committed to the students, always very kind to the administrative staff in that he would take them out to lunch every year – more than most others did. Erach always went the extra mile. He was always there to help each and every student and as Hanoz said, he never used last year’s notes for his lessons to his class each year! He went back to the drawing board and his many many books to respond to the changing student enrollment each year. Professor Munshi was certainly appreciated.

Hanoz Munshi referred fondly to the times when Erach visited India when he was but 8 years old and recalled with a big smile the good times he had during his uncle’s visits. He said, “Kaka asked me to sit down and meditate with him, to close my eyes and as curious as I was, I meditated with one eye open so I could see what Kaka was doing”. As a reflection of Erach’s love for meditation Hanoz’s wife Baljinder Kaur Munshi took all of us through a brief guided meditation. It was serene and amazing.

Other members of the audience also spoke about their memories of Erach. Ervad Pervez Patel, spoke fondly and played back a Father’s day message he had on his cell phone from Erach.

Erach had this remarkable outreach ability – he called many many ZAGNY members on Mother’s and Father’s day to wish them. Noshir Langrana reminisced that while he was the Chair of the FEZANA awards Committee, he had never been successful in encouraging Erach to be nominated for a FEZANA award. This was the humbleness and sincerity of the man. Homi Dalal, Lovji Hakim, Homi Gandhi, Ervad Daraius Antia, Rohinton Cama and many others spoke of the commitment Erach had to helping everyone. His outreach was there for all! Alas time did not allow everyone to speak.

For many years, Erach had championed the fund-raising efforts for the Atash Behrams in Udvada, Surat, Navsari and Mumbai. He personally called all the ZAGNY members and urged them to come every year to a jashan and lunch he hosted with help from other ZAGNY members. He then went to India every few years to ensure that the contributions, which had grown every year, were well distributed and reached the most deserving. ZAGNY along with his grand nephew Hanoz and family are committed to continuing the Udvada fund-raising events and have invited the community to support them in memory of Erach. ZAGNY members – this is a call to action.

Astad shared condolence messages from many. Dastur Khurshed Kaikobad Dastoor, High Priest Iranshah Udvada, said: “In the passing of Erach Munshi, his family and community have both lost a very noble soul, whose heart beat for the welfare of the community and its religious institutions.” Yezdi Karanjia from the Office of the Surat Parsi Charity Funds and Properties said: “We have lost a great philanthropist, a great sympathizer of the poor and a noble gentleman. His zeal and enthusiasm to help the members of the community were commendable”. Katayun Kapadia, President, FEZANA said: “Erach Munshi’s name will live on in the institutions he played a vital role in creating and sustaining – ZAGNY and FEZANA and the North American Zoroastrian Congresses among them. Most of all, his name will live on in the hearts of those who came to know him as a community leader of extraordinary warmth, humility, gentleness and generosity.”

Khursheed Navder closed the meeting by referring to him as the “Father – Bapu” of ZAGNY. She thanked Dean Shoaf for the excellent arrangements, venue and for the refreshments and Nerina Rustomji, also a Professor at St. John’s, for coordinating all the details with the University.

Erach, your life, your deeds and commitment will always remain in our hearts. We will miss you dearly. Garothman Behst for your soul.

THE IVY GANDHI ZOROASTRIAN KIDS CAMP 2015

BY FARAH C. PAVRI

This was my 3rd year at Z-Camp and it is one of most looked forward event in my life. Finally came that Friday (June 19), last weekend of the school year and we were busy packing our sleeping bags and bug sprays. Since our Dar-e-Mehr is still a little

short of completion, we had the camp at a camp site called Ma-Hi-Tu. It was wonderful. We had the whole camp site to ourselves. Every family had their very own personal log cabins, but the place to be was under the shack where we all met and had loads of fun and of course ate a lot of yummy treats.

The first evening was dinner and introduction. Everyone introduced themselves and we got to welcome some of the first timers at the camp. The second day was the day of hiking. We all started after a healthy breakfast and went to the foot of Bear Mountains. It felt wonderful and exciting going in a convoy. We parked the cars and got set for the hike. Few who could not climb, took the car till the top. The hike was very exciting with the scenery enchanting at every climb. It's a long way to the top, but it does not seem as long when you are with your friends. The last group had almost just reached the top and rain Gods showered their blessings on us. Some managed to get under a shade while some enjoyed the natural cooling after a good workout. We came back to the camp site and few went to take a dip at the pool, few made tie-dye shirts and few really tired ones went back to the cabin to rest. Later we had the marshmallow challenge. Sam uncle was yet again the unbeaten champion being able to fit in 14 large marshmallows in his mouth and yet being able to say the magic words "Slick silk shirts". Freyan won the junior title.

That night was even more memorable. Making s'mores under the stars, in a beautiful bon-fire, between the hilarious company of Sam uncle and everyone else. Zenobia aunty and Ethan uncle had made perfect arrangements for organizing this camp and seeing that everyone was comfortable and enjoying. Many thanks for everything. Like all good things have to end, so did our camp. Unwillingly we all said good byes after breakfast and more fun on Sunday and came home with beautiful memories and friendships that will last a lifetime.

Z-camp really is a great way to spend a weekend. It has bon fires, s'mores, games, hiking, and friends all in one. If I were you, I would not miss out on this camp.

THANK YOU ZENOBIA AND ETHAN

BY MAYYAR NOUSHI

The annual Z-Camp weekend at Camp Ma-He-Tu in Bear Mountain was a huge success thanks to Ethan and Zenobia. We would like to thank them for all the successful Z-camp for the past 3 years, you will be missed! Z-Camps!!! Ethan and Zenobia played a huge part in the weekend by bringing and encouraging our kids and family to attend. This year's Z-Camp at had a huge turnout with 27 kids, ranging in age from 5-14, along with 25 parents, for a total of 53 people!! This was a great turn out and was enjoyed by everyone over the weekend.

We wanted to include some of the comment from those that attended.

Darius Mehta stated: "A very big thank you for all the hard work you guys put into this. This was my sons, Zane, first camping trip & ZAGNY camping trip and he had a blast. He keeps asking if



we could go back. He loved the Marshmallow treats during the fire and the hike especially the snacks after. What else does a 5 year old need?

I was fortunate to be a part of the ZAGNY camp growing up. I don't remember how many campers went to but I still have fond memories of it. It was a blast! We had kusti races, to bonfires, to dancing, to breaking bunk beds (not my fault) and best of



all meeting so many friends whom we still keep in touch with. In fact, I was at Father's day at my brother's house and all the cousins talked about our days at ZAGNY camp. It brought back so many great memories. "

Jeannie and Jay Kenkare wrote: "Jay, Zubin, Cyrus, Layla and I really wanted to thank you (Zenobia and Ethan) again for such a great weekend. We can only imagine how much work went into planning, organizing, corralling and executing such a successful camp. We are so happy our children are getting the opportunity to make friends with and socialize with their Zoroastrian peers."

Growing up I was very active with ZAGNY and always looked forward to classes, and especially summer camp. Being Parsi was a huge part of my identity, a unique badge that I wore proudly. I hope my children are growing up with that same pride and sense of identity. I think they already do, and efforts like yours will surely help pave the way.

We were so disappointed to learn that you are moving...only selfishly, though, as we've really enjoyed getting to know you both and your lovely children and have enjoyed your company at ZAGNY. I am sure you will find yourselves surrounded by good friends again as you settle into your new home."

The camp was successful due to the preparation and planning of Zenobia, but what really made the difference was that everyone

that helped out where ever they could. That includes coordinated efforts around all the meals, and willingly participated in the team events with the kids. Special thanks to Dilnaz N. for the akuri breakfast and helping with the shopping, and Sam and Zarine Shroff for coordinating to get ZAGNY supplies to/from camp.

So again, thank you Ethan and Zenobia for all the hard work that you all put into this and we are sad yet happy on the big move.

UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE WORLD

2015 PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS

ZAGNY members Homi Gandhi and Arzan Sam Wadia will be amongst the nearly 20 delegates as part of the FEZANA contingent to the 24th Edition of the Parliament of World's Religions to be held in Salt Lake from October 15 - 19, 2015.

FEZANA will facilitate and moderate a series of panel discussions, demonstrations of religious ceremonies and other



events as part of the 4 day event.

More info at www.parliamentofreligions.org

IRANSHAH UDVADA UTSAV 2015

The very first Iranshah Udvada Utsav is planned for December 25-27 2015 in Udvada.

The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi and eminent Zarathushti Ratan Tata will address the event in person. Other events over three days include

- Felicitation of Mr. Ratan Tata on 27 December
- Guest of Honor Mr. Boman Irani on 26 December
- Shahnameh Recital
- Gujarati play by Mr. Yezdi Karanjia & his team from Surat
- Snippets of Adi Marazban's plays
- Garba performance by girl students from Bai Avabai Petit Girls High School
- Performances by youth from Dadar Parsi Colony, Ahmedabad, Surat and other places.

- Talks by eminent speakers like Ervard Ramiyar Karanjia and Mr Noshir Dadrawala

- Presentation/ Showcase

- Exhibition on Zoroastrian history at Udvada museum

- Arrangement of Navroze table

- Correct way to arrange ses

- Sari draping

- Art of kusti weaving and many others.....



Registration and details at www.iuu.org.in

6TH WORLD ZOROASTRIAN YOUTH CONGRESS 2015

The 6th WZYC is scheduled to be held at the end of the year at the King's College Campus in Auckland New Zealand.

Held every 4 years the Congress brings Zoroastrian youth between the ages of 15 and 35 from all over the world together for a few days.



The organizers write " We, the Zoroastrian Youth of New Zealand (ZYNZ) with the guidance of the Zarathushtrian Association of New Zealand (ZANZ) are hosting and organising the 6th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress in 2015. Our vision is to create a global platform for our Zoroastrian youth to embrace our treasured culture, enhance our unique traditions and evolve to create a united future. In essence, the Congress motto: Embrace, Enhance, Evolve.

Our goal to provide a memorable, religious and social experience for our young global Zoroastrian attendees, whilst striving to make this the first ecologically conscious WZYC."

ZAGNY youth member Poruz Khambatta is one amongst the nearly 40 youth from North America who will participate in the Congress. More info at www.6wzyc.co.nz

COMMUNITY CORNER

SAD NEWS

Long time ZAGNY member **Dinshaw Bardoliwalla** passed away on July 14th, 2015 at 9:55 AM Eastern time peacefully.

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing away on July 23, 2015 of **Christina Vitaliano**, daughter-in-law of our long time Dar-E-Mehr caretaker Wayne Fabri and his wife Theresa. Our sincere condolences also to their son Joey and the entire family.

On Saturday July 25th ZAGNY announced the passing away of its founding member and first president, **Prof. Erach Munshi**.

On Monday August 3rd, 2015, long time ZAGNY member

Tehmi E, Lavangia passed away after a brief illness

On Monday August 3rd 2015 **Jaloo Collie (née Sarkari)** passed away after a prolonged illness.

On August 25 2015, **Dr. Behman Minoo Daver** (76) passed away peacefully in Mumbai, India. Our condolences to Edul and Niloufer Daver, brother and sister-in-law of Behman.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Yasmin and Cyrus Pavri:

961 Franklin Turnpike,

Allendale NJ 07401-1315

FROM VISION TO REALITY OUR NEW DAR-E-MEHR IS ALMOST COMPLETE

It seems like just yesterday that talks of a new Dar-e-Mehr for our tri-state Zoroastrian Community were creating a buzz. And now here we are, almost 5 years later to the day, looking at this vision, this dream, become a reality! Let's take a quick walk down memory lane and remind ourselves of the incredible journey that has brought us to the completion stage of our new home, our new Dar-e-Mehr!

- PROJECT INITIATED by a committed group of 16 individuals on October 10, 2010.
- PRESENTED final plans and estimated costs to the community on October 6, 2013.
- APPROVED proposal to start construction by 90.5% majority vote at DMZT Special General Body Meeting on December 8, 2013.
- FINAL SITE PLAN APPROVALS obtained from the village of Pomona on March 13, 2014.
- CEREMONIAL GROUNDBREAKING held on March 29, 2014.
- START CONSTRUCTION TRIGGER POINT of \$3.5 million crossed when additional \$300,000 was raised on March 29, 2014.
- CONTRACT AWARDED to REDCOM Design & Construction, LLC on May 9, 2014.
- FAREWELL Jashan and dinner for existing Dar-e-Mehr on July 5, 2014.
- FINAL SITE PERMITS received August 5, 2014.
- CONSTRUCTION STARTED August 6, 2014.
- OCTOBER 2014 Completed demolition of existing Dar-e-Mehr building; Property graded; Underground storm water retention system completed.

- NOVEMBER 2014 Building foundation footings completed.
- JANUARY 2015 Floor slab poured & steel structure frame erected.
- MARCH 2015 Roof framing completed; Elevator shaft completed.
- APRIL – MAY 2015 Roof Completed; Side-wall Insulation completed; Underground utilities completed; Upper level flooring poured.
- JUNE 2015 Inside framing completed.
- JULY 2015 Electrical and Plumbing commenced.
- AUGUST – SEPTEMBER 2015 Electrics, Plumbing, Inside Sheetrock, Outside Stucco all approaching completion.

LOOKING AHEAD

CONSTRUCTION STATUS

The flooring materials and tile layouts have been selected and ordered and will be completed in October.

The three important items that are pending finalization:

1. Outside Front Façade: Materials for the very intricate outside Façade have been ordered and will be arriving in two batches in mid-October and late-October. This will add final character and ambiance to our Dar-e-Mehr.

2. The Kebla: The final proposed Kebla design works out to be very expensive, necessitating that the costing for the initial design be considered. Both designs are similar and attractive but one uses less expensive materials. Both renderings have been posted near the Kebla for you to view during the Community Appreciation Afternoon.

3. Inside Staircase: The final proposed Staircase design works out to be expensive because of the fancy metal vertical railing design. Here too the original wood design will be considered in order to be cost effective.

Our goal is to make the best possible decision regarding design and material selections that work within our financial constraints. Rest assured the end result will be spectacular and our Dar-e-Mehr will be a place you will be proud to call home. We expect all three above items to be complete in the October/November 2015 time-frame.

FUNDING STATUS:

Initial Budget:	\$ 4,600,000
Cash Collected:	\$ 3,900,000
Pledges Pending:	\$ 300,000
Sub Total:	\$ 4,200,000
Funding Gap:	\$ 400,000

OBJECTIVE IS TO BRIDGE THIS FUNDING GAP DURING THE COMMUNITY APPRECIATION AFTERNOON

Please send in monies towards outstanding pledges - we only have about \$ 0.3 Mil cash remaining.

Every effort is made to stay as close to the budget as possible. However, realistically we might possibly be over estimate by \$100-\$200,000 (approx. 3%) due to the items outlined below:

Some environmental and regulatory requirements such as Village inspection costs, weekly water run-off inspections, county roadside easement, utility connections because it is considered an upgrade, road side hot box for meter readings, intricate Kebla ventilation and monitoring system, to name a few.

Additional work such as prewiring for sound and data requirements, which would cost extra if done later.

Upgrade to LED lighting.

On the other hand, cost savings resulted in a few areas and allowances.

Also, with the Kebla and Staircase savings the overage could even be less than anticipated above.

REDCOM and Farrokh Patel deserve our recognition for their outstanding effort to keep the new building project within budget and construction on schedule.

FROM HERE TO COMPLETION

The next phase involves suitable lighting fixtures, kitchen appliances, audio equipment, possible acoustic enhancements and furnishings. With your help we hope to get most of this done before the Grand Inauguration of our new Dar-e-Mehr in March 2016. ZAGNY / IZA have started planning for this Event and if Arzan's idea takes root there will be 101 Mobeds doing the Opening Ceremony Jashan!

BOOK CORNER

THE DIVINE SONGS OF ZARATHUSHTRA BY DR. IRACH J.S. TARAPOREWALA

Third Revised and enlarged Edition reprinted by Hukta Foundation – Mumbai

The Training which Dr Taraporewala had received in Germany in objective research, and his mastery of classical Gujarati poetry enabled him to capture the beauty, the power, the sublimity and the spirit of the original Gathas in his translations in this unique voluminous book.

This is an excellent introductory book, lucidly written and authoritative, having been written by a scholar of world reputation. The present edition gives a representative selection of D. Taraporewala's writings. It is in three parts. The first part provides a basic knowledge of the ethics, philosophy and morals of the faith of Zarathushtra. Dr. Taraporewala had spent twenty years in translating the Gathas of Zarathushtra, which form the second part and the heart of the book. The third part presents a historical perspective in the form of essays on three forgotten religions of Iran – Mithraism, Manichaeism and Mazdakism.

FEZANA has obtained permission from the Hukhta Foundation to reprint the The Divine Songs of Zarathushtra: Translations of the Gathas into English by Irach JS Taraporewala.

You can purchase this book ONLINE at <http://fezana.org/publication/books/>





Meherzeen Daruwala

ZAGNY SECRETARY

248 Park Avenue

West Harrison, NY 10604

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER: Sun 20th Religious class and Board Meeting

OCTOBER: Sun 4th Religious class and Board Meeting

Sun 4th EVENT: Gambhar at ZAPANJ

Sun 18th Udvada Atash Behram Fundraiser

NOVEMBER: Sun 1st Religious class and Board Meeting

Kid's Halloween Function

DECEMBER: Sun 6th Religious class and Board Meeting

Thurs 31st New Year's Eve Function



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Always on the web: www.zagny.org