



# ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW YORK

NOVEMBER  
2016

# NEWSLETTER

## IVY F. GANDHI ZOROASTRIAN KIDS CAMP 2016:

BY MAYYAR NOUSHI

The 4th annual Z-Camp over Father's Day weekend was the most exciting time of year for children with the school year ending and the anticipation of the beginning of summer. Z-Camp at Camp Me He Tu in Harriman State Park was a big success with a total of 65 people, 33 children and 32 teenagers (adults) who packed their jammies, bug spray and sleeping bags for the Z-Camp weekend. The forecast promised warm temperatures and rainless weekend to kick off summer.

Friday evening parents and children who came from near and far settled into the cabins that lead to the assembly for dinner, introductions and the tentative schedule. After Saturday morning breakfast, with picture perfect weather, we gathered at base of the Bear Mountain Inn for our traditional hike.



The hike which was part of the Appalachian Trail (a trail system from Maine to Georgia) was steep, but groomed, 2.3 mile (one-way) to the top of Perkin's Memorial. It offered serene tranquil scenery, perfect photo ops and most of all, time with great friends. Ages ranged from 5-50 that participated in the hike and as Zahan Cursetji stated "Yup, our trip to Bear Mountain couldn't have been better."

Our fun schedule included of activities every day and my highlight was when I climbed to the top of the great Bear Mountain. Every day was filled with excitement & we were sad to leave."

Back at camp, after lunch, the sun was glistening as everyone headed down to the lake

## CONTENTS

Z KIDS CAMP	1
PRATHAM Gala Update	2
SUMMER PICNIC	3
MUKTAD 2016	4
PARSI NEW YEAR FUNCTION	5
ZAGBA ZAPANJ AT ZAGNY	6
KIDS PLAYGROUND AT DM	8
ZIG EVENT	9
CHAMPION OF CHANGE	11
NEW TEEN ROOM	11
FEZANA TURNS 30	12
PARSI DIRECTORY APP	12
MESSAGE FROM HOMI	13
UPCOMING EVENTS	14
JCJ RAFFLE	15

## ZAGNY BOARD 2014 – 2017

ASTAD J. CLUBWALA, President

KHURSHED NAVDER, Vice-President

CYRUS J. PAVRI, Treasurer

MEHERZEEN DARUWALA, Secretary

KAYOMARZ KHAMBATTA, Jr. Secretary

Members at Large

KERMAN DUKANDAR, ZUBIN P. DUMASIA,

MAYYAR NOUSHI, SAM SHROFF,

KHUSHROO VIMADALAL, ARZAN SAMWADIA

## FEZANA BULLETIN

Keep up to date with the Zarathushti community all over North America. Subscribe to FEZANA's monthly bulletin. It's Free !!

Read past issues and Sign Up with email address at

<http://fezana.org/publication/bulletinarchives/>

## THE FEZANA JOURNAL

Sign Up or Renew Subscription at

<http://fezana.org/publication/fj/>



for swimming and Kayaking. Special big thanks to Sam Shroff and Andrew LoPinto for bringing the Kayaks for everyone to take turns out on the lake. We had lifeguards on duty to keep us all



safe.

The afternoon was filled with Tetherball, American football and Tie Dye shirts and as Jasmin Kadwa stated "All of my friends were there so I didn't feel alone. The cooks made delicious foods. You had big log cabins instead of tents." That evening parents helped in the BBQ cooking and "We had a BONFIRE!!!!!!!!!! And roasted marshmallows too!!!!!!!!!! There was lots of fun and games!" As the sun came up Sunday morning, after breakfast, it was time to say our goodbyes with a look towards next year's Z-Camp.

Z-Camp would not be successful without the participation of our children and the parents. ZAGNY would like to give a very special thanks to those parents who took the time out in making this another successful Z-Camp for 2016. Thanks to Mayyar & Sasha Noushi, Cyrus & Yasmin Pavri, Sam & Zarine Shroff, for coordinating the food, logistics and another successful Z-Camp.



## ZAGNY AT PRATHAM USA GALA

Under auspices of ZAGNY , Hira & Toos Daruvala, Monica & Ruyintan Mehta, Darius & Tara Jamshidian, Susan & Nash Madon and Niloufer & Edul Daver participated in the Pratham 2016 Gala. It was held at the Waldorf Astoria in NY City and featured Governor of South Carolina, Nikki R. Haley as the Keynote Speaker.



Pratham has helped educate 45 million children and youth across India. The Gala raised over \$2.6 million, which will make it possible for thousands more to receive high quality educational and career opportunities.



# ZAGNY ANNUAL PICNIC 2016

BY KERMAN DUKANDAR

Every year as the weather gets warmer and the trees greener, the ZAGNY Parsis start looking forward to one of the most anticipated events of the year, the annual ZAGNY picnic. It was once again held at Spruce Run Park on July 17, 2016. ZAGNY Board members Sam Shroff and Mayyar Noushi organized the

event.

Over 50 folks were in attendance on that beautiful summer afternoon including parents of four of our members who were visiting from India. The smorgasbord of delicacies included grilled chicken, steak, burgers, hot dogs, empanadas, and so much more—not to mention some of our favorite Indian items including chaat, biryani, and vermicelli.

After our appetites were satiated we headed to the field for an intense game of cricket. All ages had fun batting and running. We even had some authentic cricketers from the homeland who were able to show the younger generation their fantastic skills. Although the game was interrupted by a 'sixer' being hit into the woods we were not deterred and our search party successfully retrieved the ball. The younger children kept it cool with their water guns and dances under the sprinkler.

The day would not be complete without our traditional Parsi chai and batasha. All in all, a splendid day leaving us with fond memories of another successful ZAGNY picnic.





## MUKTAD 2016

### ARTICLE BY MEHERZEEN DARUWALA

Every year our ZAGNY community offers us the opportunity to join in for Muktab prayers on the five holy Gatha days. This year the prayers were held from Friday, August 12th through Monday August 15th. To accommodate various locations and work schedules, prayers were held in the evenings on the weekdays and the weekend, across the tristate area. Our gracious hosts were Jasmin and Manek Kotwal, Dinaz and Farhad Subjally, Parveen and Merzi Dubash. We offer them all a big thank you for throwing open their homes and hearts for the community. All the prayer locations had a wonderful set up of flowers, fruits, nuts, sweets and offerings for the visiting fravashis.

The main event this year, was, though the prayers at our new Dar-E-Mehr, on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th of August. Community members signed up and attended in large numbers. Chairs were placed both inside and outside the Kebla room. Tables lined the edges of the square and were overflowing with flowers. After the ceremonies an explanation provided by Yasmin and Jamshed Ghadiali, was read out and everyone appreciated the understanding of the prayers for our dearly departed. Food was catered by Fido's cafe with Dhansak Dal, Chawal, Kachumber and chicken Kabobs. Sheroo Kanga made delicious maleeda, which she provided to the host families as well. We offer our heartfelt thanks to each and everyone involved with the muktab prayers.

Community members all sent in names of their dearly departed and over 200 names were chanted by the priests during the prayers. The services were coordinated at various individual locations by Ervads Parvez Patel. Ervad Noshir Karanjia, Ervad Rohinton Madon, Ervad Rohinton Dadina, Ervad Xerxes Antia Ervad Karl Khambatta all prayed at different homes and at the ceremonies at the Dar-E-Mehr. The hosts pulled out all stops for the community, who attended these prayers in large numbers. This year we had over 120 people that attended all the ceremonies, each day of the weekend. Thanks to everyone who helped and volunteered to put together this event and make it happen.



# 2016 PARSI NEW YEAR FUNCTION

## ARTICLE BY MEHERNAZ MADON

The beautiful sparkling new Darbe Meher was a bustling sight in lieu of the Parsi New Year 1386 YZ. Celebration on Saturday, August 27, 2016.

This graceful evening started with the very friendly hosts in their lovely garas and suits welcoming us to the Darbe Meher's grand chandelier lit hall, complete with the Asho Farohar symbol on stage, a befitting venue for celebrating another auspicious beginning of the Zoroastrian shehenshai calendar. (Insert pic of hall and stage)

Upon entering, to the right is the magnificently unmissable Darbe Meher Kebla inviting one to pay respects through its transparent glass wall. All of the necessary amenities to enter the Kebla are to its right complete with scarf and topi incase you had forgotten to carry those.

Folks socialized while enjoying the delicious starters (catered by Bombay Grill). ZAGNY President, Mr. Astad Clubwalla then welcomed the congregation. ZAGNY Board member, Arzan Sam Wadia then came up and spoke about the Good Life Award. He then invited ZAGNY Vice President, Khursheed Navder to present the award. The recipient this year was no other than the VPs own daughter, Natasha Navder Dusaj, and it was most befitting that the mother present the award to her daughter. Khursheed also spoke briefly to the parents in the audience about the importance of encouraging children to finish this worthwhile project.

Edul Daver then came up to conduct the room assignment drawing. He mentioned that there were seven donors in the \$100k category and that the Fund Raising Committee (FRC) had decided to have a random drawing to decide which room would be named after which donor. They had two hats, one with donor names and the other with the room #'s. Nina Mistry, the most hard working member of the FRC was called upon to draw out the names and those individuals or their proxies then pulled out their own Room #'s. The procedure was open and transparent and added a fun element to the evening (see details on the room

assignments below). Edul was also able to raise close to \$50,000 in new commitments for the pending Phase II items.

Following the mini fundraising event, a sumptuous Parsi dinner buffet including delicious sali boti and masal dar (catered by Mehernosh Daroowalla) was served. The gulab jamun and rabdi combo (also catered by Bombay Grill) were the highlight of the evening!

This year a lot of younger guests, who live in the city

had ventured out for the first time to visit the Dar-E-Mehr and they especially appreciated the yummy Parsi bhoju.

Post dinner, music continued to flow and the great hall provided enough space for dancing until the wee hours....with children taking over the stage to show off their groovy moves and a fun-filled end to a wonderfully hosted evening!

### NEW DARE-E-MEHR ROOM RECOGNITION ASSIGNMENTS

PRAYER HALL: Gool & Dinyar Wadia

MAIN HALL: Shernaz & Feroze Bhandara & Family

MAIN HALL: Hira & Toos Daruvala | Niloufer & Edul Daver | Aashish & Dinyar Devitre

KITCHEN: Linda & Darius Jamshidian

LIBRARY: Pallonji Mistry & Family

DINING ROOM: The Incorporated Zoroastrian Charity Funds of Hongkong, Canton & Macao

KEBLA: Yasmin, Jamshed & Aysha Ghadiali

CLASS ROOM #1: Phiroza & Satish Modi, In Memory Of Avabai Nariman, Mary & Shiavax Mama

CLASS ROOM #2: Navroz & Hanoz Gandhi Families, In Honor Of Villy & Homi Gandhi

CLASS ROOM #3: Gool & Farrokh Patel

CLASS ROOM #4: Aban & Gev Nentin

MEETING ROOM #5: Gulestan & Farrokh Deboo & Family

MEETING ROOM #6: Ellen & Homi Byramji

MEETING ROOM #7: Sam Bhadha & Family, In Memory Of Jerbanoo & Peshotan Bhadha

FOUNTAIN FEATURE (to be constructed): Armita & Daryoush Parkhideh





## ZAGBA TRIP TO THE NY DAR E MEHR

### DR. ZAREEN KARANI ARAOZ (ZAGBA MEMBER)



On the 17th of September, 2016, thanks to the hard work and excellent planning of the dedicated ZAGBA Board, 87 members of the Zoroastrian Association of the Greater Boston Area (ZAGBA) community embarked on a very special trip, or pilgrimage, if you will, to visit the newly built, beautiful and impressive Dar e

Mehr in New York, invited graciously by ZAGNY. ZAGBA hired a private bus so members could enjoy the trip together. Some members also came by car directly to the venue.

Seeing this inspiring Zarathushti structure and the holy fire flaming within it will remain a precious and lasting memory, and a very cherished moment for all. The white, amazingly impressive building of the Dar e Mehr in New York is magnificent and beautifully and tastefully planned. It should make every Zarathushti proud. ZAGNY had also invited members of the ZAPANJ community from South Jersey and Philadelphia, and so it was a real community gathering and getting together of diverse Zarathushti groups, that created a feeling of togetherness and a special bond. A BIG thank you to Edul Davar, who envisioned and spearheaded this effort, with many amazing people from ZAGNY and with the incredible generosity of many more.

ZAGNY, with their members as gracious and hospitable as always, welcomed us all with chowk, torans, singing and “achoo michoo”. We visited the inside of the Dar e Mehr as the priests Ervad



Pervez Patel and Ervad Noshir Karanjia tended the strong and glowing fire, blessing all. It was a special moment to be inside this pure white building with a glass wall on one side of the sanctuary, welcoming all and giving a feeling of inclusion, sacredness and togetherness.

The Highlight of the visit was when everyone present gathered for a Humbandagi around the front lawns, praying together, led

by Mobeds Pervez Patel from New York, Noshir Karanjia from New Jersey and Farhad and Zaal Panthaki from Boston under the open blue skies, young and old—a group of more than 200 especially with Arzan sitting on one of the balcony walls, taking photographs!

After the humbandagi, the children gathered in the prayer hall to witness the boi ceremony by the four mobeds while the adults were able to view it from outside. The children

had a joint children's religious class with all three associations participating while the adults headed to the panel discussion.



ZAGNY President Astad Clubwalla welcomed all and this was followed by a lively panel talk and discussions by Parastu Dubash from ZAGBA, Cyrus Jokhi from ZAPANJ and Spenta Cama from ZAGNY, moderated by Arzan, with many interesting questions and comments from the audience on the future of our community, ways of bringing up our children to ensure the future of our Zarthushtis in North America.

And then ZAGNY welcomed us to a special lunch, after which people started departing, having sung “Chayye Hame Zarathushti”.

For me it was particularly special and memorable, since the youngest member from ZAGBA was my sweet little granddaughter, Ava, and Dasturji Pervez Patel kindly performed a special Tandarosti for her.



But a totally different aspect of this trip that added to the community feeling and togetherness was the amazing bus trip from Boston to NY arranged by ZAGBA. All of us enjoyed the “Pora pav”, chutney sandwiches and tons of delicious food that was provided by ZAGBA families. Everyone had a rollicking time, singing old and funny songs together (English, Hindi and Gujarati), laughing, joking, talking and sleeping on the bus, and feeling like a community, with young and old taking care of each other.



We thank ZAGNY for their generous invitation and outstanding arrangements, ZAGBA President Firoza Panthaki and all the ZAGBA Board members for the arrangements as well as the Mobeds and Religious Class teachers who represented ZAGBA and all who participated ----for their good will, good humor and fun spirit that they brought with them, in a truly Zarathushti way.



ZAGNY has generously invited us back. So here's to many more "coming

together" of our communities, that are certainly not dwindling in North America. And the building of this Dar e Mehr as a focal and religious gathering point ensures that even further.

## FEZANA 2016 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

ZAGNY members, Friya Randelia and Delshad Shroff are two of the 2016 FEZANA Academic Scholarships recipients this year. FEZANA past President, Katayun Kapadia, ZAGNY President, Astad Clubwala, and FEZANA Vice President Arzan Sam Wadia presented the awards at our joint ZAGNY-ZAPANJ-ZAGBA Religious class.

## JOINT ZAGNY-ZAPANJ-ZAGBA RELIGION CLASS

### TANAZ KARAI, TEACHER (3RD YEAR CLASS AT ZAGNY)

The joint ZAGNY, ZAPANJ, and ZAGBA event was a joyous and amazing day for all who attended. The members of each organization had the opportunity to interact with kids from two other organizations during the joint religious classes. In Shiraz Antia's class two session, we had a total of 11 children, with about 4 children from each organization. The class was a great way for the children to meet with others who are so similar to them. The class began by having the children go around the room and introduce themselves, with their name, grade/age, and



organization name. Instead of jumping into a lesson, we gave the children time to get to know each other and talk about things that they had done during the summer. It was a great chance for the kids to listen to what others have done, as well as connect to one another and make friends. After giving the children the opportunity to get to know one another, we began a lesson on the meaning of a small portion of the Jaso Me Avenge Mazda prayer. We had the children take turns reading the worksheet.



We also broke each part down to explain to the children the meaning of the prayer. Finally, we had the children fill out an All About Me page on the back and there were two additional questions that typical All About Me pages don't include. The questions asked the children to explain the meaning of what it

means to be a Mazdayasni and a Zarathustri. Answers to both of these questions helped to show that no matter how far away we are, we are all connected by a greater bond that cannot be broken.

## A BEAUTIFUL, HEART WARMING THANK YOU NOTE

**Dear Astad Uncle,**

It was wonderful to see you on Saturday at the Dar-e-Mehr! I'm writing to thank you and all of ZAGNY for inviting ZAPANJ and ZAGBA to your beautiful Dar-e-Mehr on Saturday. It was an honor to have an opportunity to see your gorgeous center, to pray together, and to participate in the afternoon programs with so many other Zoroastrian families. We are so blessed and thankful for the Dar-e-Mehr.

It is not only an amazing spiritual space for the Greater New York Zoroastrian community, but for all Zoroastrian communities in North America and throughout the world. I am filled with happiness and pride that such a center even exists in the U.S. and thankful that your community has welcomed us all to share in the fruits of your labor. Thank you for creating such a warm, safe, spiritual environment for us all to come together. As we removed our shoes on Saturday and I helped my son to wash his hands before we entered the prayer hall, I was reminded of the times I had done the same thing with my own parents at the fire temples in India. At that moment I was struck with the acknowledgement that this is the first time I was able to complete this act in America!

And this time around I was able to perform this ritual with my two small children and my non-Zoroastrian husband, which made this event even more powerful and meaningful to me. As we got into our car and drove away Saturday evening, I

was moved to tears by what this center means to me, to our children, and the future generations of children to come. All of your hard work, sweat, and tears is more than worth it. You have created something that is much greater than the sum of its parts. You've created a space that represents us all, that houses a piece of us all, that is home and sanctuary for all of us throughout the world. For that I am eternally grateful.

For Saturday's program, and mostly for your tireless hard work and dedication over many many years to create such an amazing center, I thank you and all the individuals that had any role (big or small) in the creation of the Dar-e-Mehr. We look forward to the next time we meet again.

All the best,

**Feroza Nusbaum**

P.S. Thank you for taking my family's picture as we left the Dar-e-Mehr on Saturday! It is a great shot that I have been sending to all of my family members! I treasure it as a memento of this wonderful day and amazing place! :)

Lastly, please feel free to forward my email to anyone that helped to organize Saturday's program as well as all those involved in the creation of the building. I want to thank them all and I'd love for them to know what the day meant to me. Thank you.

## KIDS PLAYGROUND SET UP AT NEW DAR-E-MEHR



A special thanks to Wayne Fabbri for placing the playground with the use of his heavy equipment. Big thanks to volunteers Rayan & Mernoosh Daroowalla, Sarfaraz (Sasha), Zubin & Mayyar Noushi for putting together the slide and cleaning the playground at the Darbe Mehr.





# ZOROASTRIAN INTERMARRIED GROUP EVENT

## NARGES KAKALIA

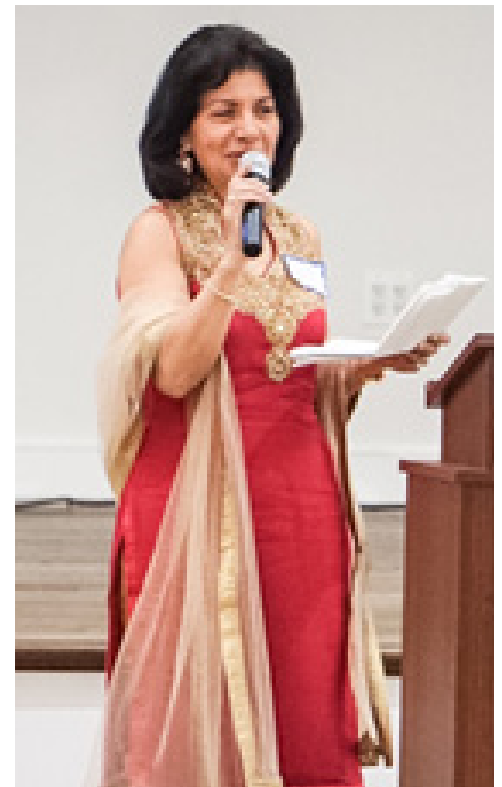
As a community we have spent decades arguing fiercely about whether or not Zoroastrians who marry non-Zoroastrians should continue to be welcomed into our communities. And as we have continued to debate, we have continued to marry Zoroastrians and non-Zoroastrians alike. “Back home” interfaith couples still face significant stigma and exclusion. But the North American Zarthushti community has for many years openly and warmly welcomed non-Zoroastrian spouses into Dar-e-Mehrs

across the continent, including at our own Arbab Rustam Guiv Dar-e-Mehr.

Despite the welcoming atmosphere of the Dar-e-Mehr, many interfaith couples have faced unique challenges - dealing with questioning family members, either here or abroad, raising children in a faith only one spouse practices, finding mobeds to perform Navjotes and weddings, etc. To foster an open and non-

judgmental environment in which to talk about issues and share ideas — and of course eat! — Viraf and Toni Ghadially started the Zoroastrian Intermarried Group (“ZIG”) over a decade ago. ZIG met regularly and informally over a dozen or so years, at various homes across the Tri-State area, to discuss everything from religion, politics, rituals, celebrations and — yes — food. And as ZIG grew, so too did the larger community’s acceptance of interfaith marriages.

Then on October 8, 2016, ZIG had its first event at the new Dar-e-Mehr. The occasion was attended by 57 families (~125 attendees) from the tri-state area, all of whom



gathered to hear various members of the ZAGNY, IZA and DMZT boards welcome them, and to hear Viraf speak about both the past, and his vision for ZIG's future. When the program began that evening, a significant barrier to inclusion still remained -- no non-Zoroastrian spouse had ever been welcomed into the sanctum sanctorum of the prayer room. Before dinner, mobeds Xerxes Antia, Adi Sidhwa, and Khushroo Vimadalal led all the assembled guests — men, women, children, Zoroastrian and non-Zoroastrian — into the prayer room for a special Tandarosti and welcome. Non-Zoroastrian spouses - many of whom had been a part of ZAGNY for decades - finally, physically and metaphorically, stepped over the threshold of the prayer room to be introduced to the Atash for the very first time. After the Tandarosti, everyone ate dinner together, and children ran around playing games organized by Toni. During open mic time, Viraf and Toni's daughter, Temilyn Mehta, paid tribute to her parents' struggles, and their smiling perseverance over decades, that finally brought everyone together in a wonderful celebration of the NY-area Zoroastrian community's diversity. The program ended with a surprise gift from ZIG (and its supporters) to



Viraf and Toni — an engraved patio brick for the Dar-e-Mehr — in grateful acknowledgement of their vision and hard work in bringing the area's intermarried Zoroastrians together.





## CHAMPION OF CHANGE

### EXTRACTED FROM PARSIANA



"I'm proud that my efforts to ensure all people have access to their own creative capacity and the tools to tell their own stories is valued by the White House. I am thrilled my passion for putting

art and creative expression as central to social justice work (is) highlighted in such a way," commented Kayhan Irani, among the 10 individuals from across the US recognized as "White House Champions of Change for Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Art and Storytelling." These 10 individuals were selected for their leadership and tireless work to raise the visibility of diverse AAPI experiences and create dialog around issues the community faces.

Taking pride in her success were her parents Teshtar and Noshir Irani, and domestic partner Tamiru Mammo.

A committed writer, socially engaged artist and a Theater of the Oppressed trainer and facilitator, Irani designs and directs projects for community based organizations, government agencies and international NGOs (nongovernmental organizations), notes her blog Artivista, the term activism being a combination of art and activism. She facilitates workshops and training nationally and internationally in Afghanistan, India and Iraq. Her published work includes Telling Stories to Change

the World: Global Voices on the Power of Narrative to Build Community and Make Social Justice Claims as also Culturally Relevant Arts Education for Social Justice: A Way Out of No Way.

## NEW TEEN ROOM AT THE DAR-E-MEHR

### BY TINA DAROOWALLA

There is a new Teen Room at The Dar-E-Mehr!!!

Have you seen it yet? If you haven't, you're not alone.

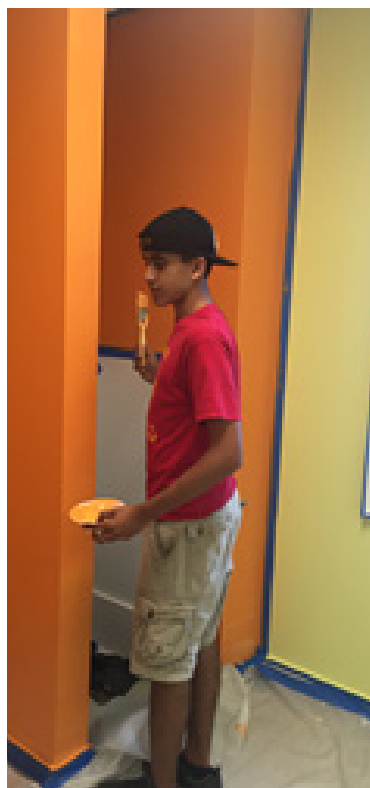
This summer, Rayan Daroowalla designed and installed a Teen Room for his Boy Scout Eagle Project, at our Dar-E-Mehr.

The mission of the Dar-e-Mehr Teen Room, as Rayan explains,



is to get our teens more involved in our community. Typically most teens, after they graduate from the religious classes, tend to stop attending the monthly meetings. Teens are an essential untapped resource and the future leaders of our community. The aim is to encourage teens to be more active in the community. More teens means more volunteers, teachers and leaders for the younger kids.

To win the attention of the teens, Rayan knew that the room had to be awesome, and worthy of our beautiful new building! So he set out to create a space that is modern and teen friendly. A functional and casual space, where teens can congregate and help each other with homework, projects, and other school



issues. A space where they can interact freely, and exchange ideas and viewpoints, about being young Zoroastrians. A room they can call their own.

The DMZT, ZAGNY and IZA Boards approved, and a 160 SF room, adjacent to the Recreation room was assigned to the project. Rayan reached out to the community, and to friends and family to raise funds, and turned to his Boy Scout Troop 138 to help build the room. The room is basically divided into 3 areas: a



computer area, a group study area, and a lounge area. It is full of vibrant colors and fun flexible furniture.

Do stop by and take a look the next time you are at the Dar-E-Mehr!

## FEZANA'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS BEGIN

In 2017 Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America (FEZANA) will celebrate its 30th Anniversary. A year long celebration is planned with a series of events all over the USA and Canada.

Some of the events lined up are:

1. FEZANA Logo Design Competition: This competition will be launched on November 1, 2016. Official press release to follow. I would urge all of you to spread the word and also encourage kids and youth in your religion classes to submit entries.

2. FEZANA 30th Anniversary Kickoff Celebrations: Zoroastrian Association of Chicago will kickstart the official celebrations of the 30th Anniversary on November 5, 2016 with an evening of fun and festivities, followed by a "Lagan Nu Bhonu" a traditional Parsi wedding repast. We are expecting a great turnout at the event and look forward to the participation of many of you.

3. EZANA Journal 30th Anniversary Special: The Spring 2017 FEZANA Journal issue will be a special that will look at the past thirty years of FEZANA's achievement, and more importantly ideas for the future from the community leaders of tomorrow.

4. FEZANA 30th Anniversary Gala: The Gala shall be held on Saturday April 29, 2017 during the FEZANA Annual General Meeting. The Gala will be hosted by the Zoroastrian Association of Houston, also the hosts of the AGM.

Various FEZANA Committees are in the midst of arranging projects. We will announce them to you as they are finalized.

Other events at the local and regional level are being planned and as they get finalized we will announce them to all of you. We urge local associations of FEZANA to get together and host combined events to foster friendships amongst members of your associations and help in realizing the founding principles and goals of FEZANA.

If you have more ideas to share and would like to get involved do drop a line to Homi D. Gandhi, President FEZANA at

[president@fezana.org](mailto:president@fezana.org)



### THE PARSI DIRECTORY -

#### NOW AS AN ANDROID APP

TheParsiDirectory.com has been around for over 10 years now, with more than 78,800 live registrations, making it the Largest, Free,

Worldwide Listing of Parsis, Iranis, Zoroastrians across the world.

Over the years, thousands of Zoroastrians have connected with family and friends using this medium. Many non-Zoroastrians have found long lost Zoroastrian relatives and friends, by requesting information from this valuable resource innumerable Businesses have been discovered and valuable trade and commerce has been generated online. You may find Tour Operators, Caterers,



## A MESSAGE FROM HOMI D. GANDHI

Earlier this year Homi Gandhi one of the earliest ZAGNY members relocated from Glen Rock NJ to sunny Los Angeles.

Homi has been a part of the ZAGNY family in more ways than most. As a Past President of the Association Homi led ZAGNY for many years. The ZAGNY Board was also honored to nominate Homi, first as Vice-President of FEZANA and since May this year as the President of FEZANA. Below is a farewell note Homi sent us, requesting it to be circulated among the ZAGNY community.

While we will miss Homi's regular presence at the Dar-E-Mehr and in the local area, ZAGNY is and will always remain as home for Homi.

### HOMI WRITES

My dear fellow Zoroastrians of Greater New York area,

As you return from summer break and begin a new year of activities, you will not find me at the new Dar-e-Mehr on a regular basis. Here in LA, I will miss you all tremendously. I truly regret that I was unable to meet each one of you and bid you personally an affectionate farewell. I hope this message will compensate a bit for that, and I hope also that though we shall not meet as frequently as we did before, I will see many of you on my future visits back home.

Because ZAGNY has always been and will always be home. It is at ZAGNY's first home in New Rochelle that my wife, Villy, and I forged many lifelong friendships. That is where my children began their religious education. It is where my son met his wife. It is where we celebrated the weddings of both our sons. Over the years, your kindness has sustained us in hard times, and your friendship has been savored in the celebrations of the good times. I have spent almost half of my life making a home among the ZAGNY community. Villy is laid to rest in New Jersey. It seems to me that I owe so very much – everything! – to this community.

Villy and I enjoyed being part of ZAGNY from our very first days in America. She taught religion class, and we participated in the administration and organization of ZAGNY and DMZT in their formative years. When the community outgrew its home in New Rochelle, Villy and I joined a group of friends to form Z-Land LLC with the sole aim of bringing a suitable

property to the community with an initial down payment for the property. This culminated in the move from New Rochelle to Pomona – a somewhat bittersweet moment in time for us, given how attached we were to the New Rochelle home where we had so many happy memories with you.

Over the years, our community has continued to inspire me. I will always appreciate the faith you placed in me, when you elected me to serve as Treasurer and then President of ZAGNY. I was honored to have the chance to contribute to the community that has given me so much. I will always admire and appreciate the generosity, help and support of the people who served with me. In my years as President, we began to participate with IZA at the NauRuz Day Persian Parade in NYC, we organized celebrations of the 3000th anniversary of Zoroastrianism, we started a Zoroastrian Intermarried Group, which allowed us to truly show our Zarathushti spirit of inclusion. All of these things, which I remember so fondly as having required so much effort, would not have been possible without you all. So I thank you my ZAGNY and IZA friends for all that you have given me – most importantly, a sense of true pride in being a member of our community.

Not too long ago, when the New Darbe Mehr Initiative (NDMI) stepped up to build a new Dar-e-Mehr on the land in Pomona, my children and I were eager to contribute. Villy and I had shared a dream that the community would one day build a unique property to highlight our culture and history. Our New Dar-e-Mehr exceeds all our hopes and dreams.

My family and I no longer live in the tri-state area. So we are not able to fully enjoy our new Dar-e-Mehr. But home isn't necessarily a building. It is a feeling. Home is where you all are. You all are the people with whom Villy and I made our beginnings in the new world. You are the village in which we brought up our sons. So although my grandchildren have tempted me to move to LA, and I will undoubtedly make a home here on the West Coast, I will return to you again and again to renew my friendships with you and bask in the comfort of your continued kinship. In the meantime, if you are ever in LA, please look me up. I would love to see you.

As I bid you a fond farewell, please know that we only part to meet again.

Warm regards,

Homi D. Gandhi homidgandhi@gmail.com Cell: 201-410-8963

Accountants, Lawyers, Film Makers, etc. etc. TheParsiInstitutions.com incorporates Institutions like Agiaries, Associations, Baugs for Wedding and Navjotes, Dharamshalas, Sanatoriums, etc., across the world.

Both these extremely valuable resources are now available on your mobile phone as an Android App - just follow this link (<https://goo.gl/XNDVBN>) to download it from the Play Store.

Once you have installed the app and registered yourself you will have the full power of connecting with any of the 78,000+ registered users based on name, location, profession or any combination of these. You will also have access to more than 750 Parsi Institutions from across the world.

Besides, you now also have the option to subscribe to Daily Roj, Salgarehs, Uthamna and Z-News from all over the world.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARADE

Sun, Nov 6 Religion Class 3-4 pm Don your costumes and join us after the religious class for a spooky fun filled parade!

### NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA

Mark your calendars and plan to close out 2016 with your ZAGNY family of friends at our New Dar-E-Mehr. Join us for an unforgettable evening and celebrate the arrival of 2017. Details to follow via eblast.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### UPCOMING SEMINAR

#### "ZARATHUSHTRA'S VISION AND ZOROASTRIANISM TODAY"

ZAGNY is proud to present the first seminar at our new Dar-e-Mehr, on Nov 19th starting at 10:30 AM.

Lunch will be provided by ZAGNY

### LIST OF SPEAKERS:

**Prof. Stanley Insler**, Emeritus Professor at Yale University. Prof. Insler is an expert in Vedic and Gathic languages and an authority on the Gathas of Zarathushtra, having given us one of the most brilliant translations into English. Prof. Insler gave the first academic lecture at the inauguration of our first Dar-e-Mehr in New Rochelle and it is particularly fitting that he is a speaker again at the first seminar at our New Dar-e-Mehr.

**Dr. Kersey Antia** is the Zoroastrian High Priest of Chicago, Illinois, a position he has held since 1977. He attended the M.F. Cama Athornan Institute in Bombay and became an ordained priest at the age of 13. He studied Avesta and Pahlavi at the University of Bombay. While in college, he received essay-awards from the K.R. Cama Oriental Institute, and has served the community as a volunteer priest.

He has lectured and written on the subject of Zoroastrianism, in India and the United States, both live and on radio and on television, and has made video courses on Zoroastrianism. He has studied the Gathas on his own for many years. Utilizing, at first, the translations of Kanga, Mills, and Taraporewala, he now relies primarily on Dr. Insler's translation.

**Prof. Kaikhosrov Irani** is Emeritus Professor of Philosophy at the City College of New York, after teaching there for 41 years. He was Chairman of the Department for nine years; and the Director, and Executive Director of the Program for the History and Philosophy of Science and was responsible for the development of the Program and its execution and teaching. He was also the Director of the Academy of Humanities and Sciences for 12 Years.

Prof. Irani really needs no introduction to the Zoroastrian World. He has given lectures throughout North America, Europe, India and Pakistan. His knowledge of Zoroastrianism, especially the Gathas, his wit and sense of humor, and his ability to fit the subject of Zoroastrianism in the broader field of Philosophy

makes him an engaging speaker and a great teacher.

**Kersi Shroff** is a founding member of the Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Washington (ZAMWI, 1979), a drafter of its Constitution, and has served as its President. He has lectured on Zoroastrianism at universities, interfaith events, and other gatherings. In recent years, he has developed an interest in archeological findings of a Zoroastrian civilization (5-7th centuries) in Central Asia, and has published several articles and given talks on the subject.

Kersi is an Attorney and has served for many years as a honorary legal adviser to ZAMWI and FEZANA

**Dr. Lovji Cama**, past president of ZAGNY and Dar-e-Mehr Trustee, has organized the religious education classes for children aged 4 to 15 years at ZAGNY, since 1973. He has taught Zoroastrian history, culture, philosophy and religion to children of ages 10 to 15. One of his primary areas of interest is youth related activities. He has lectured and written on subjects on Zoroastrianism in New York, London and India and contributed to the text book used for the Good Life program, for U.S. Scouting, which is administered by ZAGNY.

### Seminar Schedule

10:30 AM Coffee Tea and informal networking

10:50 AM Welcome address: Astad Clubwala, ZAGNY President

11:00 AM Prof. Kaikhosrow Irani "Zarathushtra's Vision and Zoroastrianism Today"

11:45 AM Dr. Kersey Antia "How Our Religious Practices and Beliefs Reflect Zarathushtra's Vision"

12:15 PM Prof. Stanley Insler "Zarathushtra's Truth"

1:00 PM Lunch

2:00 PM Kersi Shroff "Zoroastrianism in Academic Literature: A Review of Recent Scholarly Writings"

2:45 PM Dr. Lovji Cama "The Idea of Fire in the Gathas and its interpretation in the Atash Niasheh"

3:30 PM Concluding Remarks

3:40 PM onwards Snacks and informal discussion with speakers

End of Seminar.

### RASHNA MADON'S ART EXHIBIT

Beamesderfer Art Gallery (Highland Park)

Dec 1, 2016 - January 15, 2017.

Out of a melange and over years of just painting, emerged my own little style, a sense of all that I had imbibed. Today, I think I paint that which makes me happy...it is my escape and my refuge. I feel a strong bond with animals and nature and with the concept of communities living together in harmony and looking out for each other.

More info at <http://rashnamadon.com>





# Jamva Chaloji Raffle

As part of the upcoming Jamva Chaloji event on Saturday, November 12th, we are offering the exciting items for a fundraising raffle. Select the items that you want to win when you buy your raffle tickets. (Please note: You do not have to be at the raffle to win!) Buy raffle tickets today!

Lladro Buddha



Diamond and pearl earrings and pendant



**\$5.00 for 1 ticket | \$15.00 for 4 tickets | \$30.00 for 10 tickets**



Pink sequenced and embroidered saree



Red embroidered gara pullav

**For tickets, please contact:**

Behroze Clubwala 201.755.5714

Percis Bansal: 609.439.8538

Arnaz Maneckshana: 201.592.2566

There will also be a silent auction at the Jamva Chaloji event featuring a selection of exclusive items including clothes, housewares and electronics. More details to follow.



Meherzeen Daruwala

ZAGNY SECRETARY

248 Park Avenue

West Harrison, NY 10604

---

## UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER:	Sun Nov 6th	Religious class and Halloween Parade Saturday
	Sat Nov 12th	Jamva Chalo Ji Gala Fundraiser
	Sat Nov 19th	Religious Seminar
DECEMBER	Sun Dec 4th	Religious Class Sunday
	Sat Dec 31st	New Year's Eve Function

**Shop at AmazonSmile**  
and Amazon will make  
a donation to:

**ZAGNY**

Get started

**amazon**smile

**[ZAGNY.ORG/AMAZONSMILE](http://ZAGNY.ORG/AMAZONSMILE)**