

# ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW YORK

# NEWSLETTER

## APRIL 2018

## ZAGNY TO HOST WZC 2022

On December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the annual general meeting of the Global Working Group in Mumbai, ZAGNY's bid to host the World Zoroastrian Congress in New York in the summer of 2022 was approved.

Full story on page 3

## THE GLORIOUS LIFE OF DR. KAIKHOSROV IRANI.

#### BY NATALIE GANDHI

On September 9, 2017, ZAGNY, the Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York, memorialized the life of its early member, dearly beloved Professor Emeritus Dr. K.D.

Irani. The event was a deep tribute to a preeminent and sustained presence in both intellectual life and for Zoroastrians worldwide.

From mid-morning throughout the early evening at the new Arbab Rustam Guiv Dar-E-Mehr in Suffern, New York, family members, dignitaries, colleagues, students, community members, "K.D.'s" close friends and assistants met. We listened to recollections, viewed a video presentation, heard musical performances, and shared lunch. Each speaker provided heartfelt insight into the noble gentleman and his profound impact on their lives. As a community, we shared tears and laughter over K.D.'s time with us.

Detailing the day's program in depth, matters unfolded with noted people speaking,

- A "Humbandagi" Blessing by Framroze Patel, Lovji Cama and Darius Antia
- Opening Remarks by Astad J. Clubwala
- A Family Perspective by Professor Zarine Weil and Professor Darius
  Weil
- A University Perspective by Professor and Chair Jeff Rozend
- A Student's Perspective by George Greene
- A video presentation "Celebrating the Life of Professor K.D. Irani", by Ferzin Patel
- "K.D. I., Mazda Ahura's Helper" by Framroze Patel and Pashang Patel

#### IN THIS EDITION

Prof. Irani Obituary	1
WZC 2022	3
Ruyintan Mehta	5
Z-Goldies Dance	6
Z-Goldies Function	7
Transfer of projects	9
O&M Cost Fund	10
Thank You Adina Maya	11
Swab for Sharmin	11
Joint class	12
Muktad	14
Solar System	14
Lecture Series	15
Community News	17

#### **FEZANA BULLETIN**

Subscribe to FEZENA's monthly bulletin to keep up to date with the Zarathushti community all over North America.

Read past issues and Sign Up with email address at http://fezana.org/publication/bulletinarchives/

#### **FEZANA JOURNAL**

Sign up/renew subscription at <a href="http://fezana.org/publication/fj/">http://fezana.org/publication/fj/</a>

- Professor Irani's Contribution to the Zoroastrian Religion, by Dr. Lovji Cama
- Musical Performance; Puccini-O mio babbino caro, Aria from the Opera Gianni Schicchi, Sung by Tara Jamshidian;
- Haydn-Violin Concerto in G Major, 1st movement, Performed by Sarosh Mistry
- Puccini-Senza Mama, Aria from Suor Angelica, sung by Tara Jamshidian.
- Remarks by audience members
- Closing remarks by Professor & Chair Khursheed Navder

The event's printed program notes several Gathic passages selected by K.D. and recited at his funeral;

Ahunavati 4.22, Ahunavati 7.13,

Ushtavaiti 4.10, and Vohu Kshathra 1.06.

A luncheon was provided for over a hundred and twenty attendees by Jassely and Kerman Dukander. President of the ZAGNY Board, Astad J.Clubwala, organized the event with great care. Board member Arzan Wadia assisted with audiovisual arrangements. ZAGNY will continue to develop the legacy of Professor Emr. K.D. Irani and further tributes to him will be noted for the community.

The closing scene in Ferzin Patel's engaging video highlights a touching moment. News of K.D.'s passing was not confined to New York but shared over the globe. The earliest public tribute took place in Kurdistan. Many Zoroastrians there set bouquets of red roses and burning candles afloat the blue waters of running rivers. It was their gesture of reverence for this departed one.

Can a loved one's memorial be noteworthy in the history of human thought and philosophy itself? This memorial attained such a stature on two accounts. For one, we received confirmation from Professor Zarine Weil of K.D. Irani's first assignment as a student in America. He spent months at the Enrico Fermi Research Institutes in Chicago working on the Manhattan Project. As such, he was among those in the foremost rank of scientists, physicists, of the early twentieth century. Secondly, his loving student, the attorney George Greene, spoke of an entire, detailed lecture of an hour's length that the Professor delivered to him on the topic of Zoroaster's influence on Plato. Therefore, if we accept K.D.'s insight, then we can maintain the entire heritage of Philosophy, the Platonism springing from Ancient Greece, was impacted by the founder of the Zoroastrian religion. A pristine impact on all human thought was given to us in antiquity from Zoroaster, who tells us of the beauty of Ahura Mazda and the World. We celebrated a gleaming bright life at our new Dar-e-Mehr under its brilliant crystal chandeliers. And there together as we remembered K.D, we documented an utterly profound aspect of human experience in our reaching for transcendent Platonic heights.



Professor Irani at ZAGNY

May the esteemed soul of Professor Emr. K.D. Irani sing forever in the House of Song.

R.I.P. Kaikhosrov D. Irani (May 1, 1922 - June 29, 2017) was a philosopher specializing in Kant and the philosophy of science. Born in Bombay, India, he was the eldest son of Dinshah Jijibhoy Irani and Banu Mithibai Sethna. He was a husband to Piroja Irani, an attorney. He taught for 61 years in the Philosophy Department of City College of New York, where he served as Chairman for nine years. He was a member of the Academy of Scito Piroja Irani, an attorney. He taught for 61 years in the Philosophy Department of City College of New York, where he served as Chairman for nine years. He was a member of the Academy of Science in New York, the American Philosophical Association, the Philosophy of Science Association, and the American Academy of Religion and he was a judge for the Templeton Prize. He delivered lectures throughout the world, in North America, India, and Europe. He was a member and past President of ZAGNY, the Zoroastrian

Association of Greater New York. His father's hope for him was that "he would be a good servant of his people" and K.D. fulfilled this hope well.

#### WORLD ZORASTRIAN CONGRESS 2022- ZAGNY to host the XII WZC

On March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017, FEZANA sent to all its member associations, a request for proposal for hosting the XII World Zoroastrian Congress with the submission deadline of 25th April 2017 – a scant few weeks away.

## Last world congress to be held in North America was in 2000 in Houston

The only previous world congress held in North America was in 2000 in Houston and ZAGNY president Astad Clubwala felt that it was again North America's turn and that it was ZAGNY's time. He put the proposal forward to the ZAGNY Board and

received unanimous consent with responses such as, "You have my blessings", "Yes we should definitely pitch for it", "Yes let's do it", "Resounding yes", "Yes wow" and "Hell yes".

ZAGNY has hosted two major recent events, the 2012 North American Zoroastrian Congress and the 2016 inauguration of its new Dar-e-Mehr. A special committee was formed to work on the bid comprising of the committee chairs of the previous two events. Astad prepared and circulated a first draft proposal which became the base working document and on March 23 the committee had its first of many latenight conference calls.



Various subcommittees were formed to cover the areas of the Theme, Goals and Objectives, Venue location, Program details, Hospitality, Logistics, Youth events, Women's issues, Legacy Projects, Entertainment, Exhibits etc. The committee members, being experienced through previous events, provided valuable input and demonstrated a tremendous amount of enthusiasm, dedication and energy which resulted in a thorough and outstanding bid. The final touches were provided by the core team of Arzan Wadia, Adil Mistry and Astad Clubwala. The proposal package consisted of the bid document,

which was a color booklet including pictures; a PowerPoint presentation; and a video presentation. \*

On April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017 ZAGNY presented this proposal at the FEZANA AGM to all the member associations. ZAGNY, being the only Association to submit a bid, was selected to represent North America for the next step of selection by the Global Working Group at its AGM to be held in December 2017.

At this point a committee made up of Astad and Arzan representing ZAGNY and Homi Gandhi, Katayun Kapadia and Mahrukh Motafram representing FEZANA incorporated the FEZANA component into the proposal which included a brief history, mission and vision of FEZANA as well as a "Why FEZANA?"



Astad Clubwala presenting the ZAGNY bid to host the 2022 WZC

section. This final proposal was forwarded to the Global Working Group.

On December 20, 2017 at the Global Working Group AGM in Mumbai ZAGNY's bid, submitted by FEZANA, was formally approved and ZAGNY will host the XII World Zoroastrian Congress in New York in the summer of 2022.

\* To see the video presentation: https://vimeo.com/214747135

## **Proposal Summary**

## Theme - Bridging the Global Zarathushti Existence.

Our aim is to ensure that we bridge Zarathushtis from across the world, but also bridge the age, gender, cultural and spiritual differences. Our community today is truly global, spread across the world and represents a diaspora that brings with it unique challenges. The World Zoroastrian Congress will give us the opportunity to strengthen connections and build bridges while respecting our diversity.

## **Goals and Objectives**

Our goal for the 2022 World Zoroastrian Congress is a truly "world" Congress with active global participation in keeping with our theme of Bridging the Global Zarathushti Existence. To this end, we will strive to involve Zoroastrian Associations and 'Emerging Zoroastrian' Groups (Kurdistan, Tajikistan etc.) across the world well in advance of the Congress to ensure and encourage their engagement and participation.

## **Suggested Program Topics**

- Zoroastrian History from a purely Religious perspective
- Global Regions Celebrating our Diversity
- Priesthood
- Interfaith
- Inspiration
- Voice of Zarathushti Women
- Supporting our Zarathushti Seniors
- Zarathushti Knowledge Sessions
- Zoroastrian Health & Wellness
- The Parsi Future
- Emergence of the "Persian" brand
- The future of Zoroastrianism The next Generation

## **Children's and Youth Program**

The Children and Youth Program component of the Congress will encompass a parallel track model, which allows each age demographic to have their own tracks and events based on social, cultural, and educational programs.

- Socialization Scope
- Interactive Discussions and Workshops for our Older Youth
- Networking

## **Presentation by Zoroastrian Groups**

GWG; FEZANA; WZCC; PARZOR; WZO; RTR; WZYLF etc.

## **Legacy Project - Zoroastrian Communities Worldwide**

Every community (city/town/village) including small populations will be contacted and requested to send pictures/multimedia with a brief history of their community. This will be a two-year project at minimum, with emphasis on the small dying out population areas as well as the "Emerging Zoroastrian" groups. We will showcase our Zoroastrian

Communities Worldwide at the Congress as an exhibit and launch an on-line book. Perhaps later, a printed copy. This will serve as a historical archive as to Status of Zoroastrianism as of 2022.

## RUYINTAN MEHTA - A Steadfast Pledge. Giving back to India since 1970

Ruyintan (Ron) Mehta, grew up in Ahmedabad, India. Since childhood, Ron admired his mother's charitable nature and kind spirit as he watched her volunteer at a local school for blind girls and on many occasion welcome groups of students home for the weekend; he marveled at her compassion as he watched her treat their house-help like family members and even pay for the education of their children. Unknown to him at the time, Ron had developed an innate desire to emulate his mother's charitable and kind nature, and although he himself is not religious, he grew up following the simple teaching of Zoroastrianism: "Good thoughts, good words, good deeds".

After obtaining a degree in chemical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, Mehta moved to the United States to continue his graduate studies. Ron was amazed at the world class education he had received at IIT for just Rs.10,000 (about \$150 in today's dollar value) and was inspired to give back, saying, "If a country as poor as that can do so much, I pledged that when I could, I would do my darnedest to give back to IIT and society at large."



Ruyintan "Ron" Mehta

Ron gives back in many ways – he has been instrumental in developing a student exchange program between his alma mater IIT Bombay and The Cooper Union, an engineering school in New York, and personally provides a \$2,000 travel grant to each student in the exchange program; he also financially contributes to and is on the advisory board of Dakshana Foundation, which prepares the most economically needy youth in India to take the IIT joint entrance exam; he is current

president of the IIT Bombay Heritage Foundation and former president of the IIT Bombay Alumni Association of New York; he also serves as a certified mentor for the Central Jersey SCORE chapter, where he provides counseling and mentoring to entrepreneurs and small businesses; and in addition to the many altruistic contributions, Ron has over the past 25 years given back almost \$1 million in donations to causes close to his heart, including a recent donation to Wheels Global Foundation (WGF). WGF was founded by alumni of the Indian Institutes of Technology where Ron serves as a board member. The WGF annual fundraising gala was held at The Pierre, Taj in New York on November 3, 2017 with over 300 entrepreneurs, business leaders, scholars and dignitaries present. Amongst them were ZAGNY members Mahrukh & Dinshaw Bamji and Niloufer & Edul Daver. The focus of this year's gala was to highlight the giving stories of some of the community's unsung



Pictured here, Mr. Josh Weston (Guest of Honor) receiving the award from Rajat Gupta (Chairman, WGF), announced by Ron Mehta (WGF Board Member)

heroes like Ruyintan Mehta as well as honor Mr. Josh Weston, the former CEO of ADP, for his years of service as a community leader and co-founder of Safe Water Network, a non-profit that provides access to clean drinking water to thousands of people in India and Ghana.

Ron is proud to call the United States home for the past 47 years and resides in New Jersey with his wife, two children and three grandchildren. Ron serves as President of Mehta Associates, a Private Equity Investment and Venture Capital Firm.

#### Z-GOLDIES DANCE - WHAT A BLAST.

#### BY SHEROO KANGA AND NAWAZ MERCHANT

On Saturday, 23rd of September, the Z-Goldies, a group of members mostly above the age of fifty (we accept everyone who wants to join!) along with their beautiful grand children gathered at the Dar-E-Mehr and had a BLAST. The group which included all ages enjoyed themselves immensely, had a lot of fun and danced the night away. The best part was to watch the children having a fun time and to hear their laughter, said grandma Khurshid Mehta.

Organizers Yasmin Ghadiali, Nawaz Merchant, Kamal Merchant, Navaz Katki-Dadina and Khursheed Navder (and Yasmin Pavri who was not able to join) had assembled a host of music, with help from Lovji Hakim and Shailendra Dusaj.

The delicious dinner menu was:

Appetizers: Chicken Kababs, Sev Ganthia and Patrel

Dinner: Curry Rice, Sali ma Margi, Vegetable Stew and Salad

Dessert: Caramel Custard and Chocolate Cake.

After the appetizers, 5-Year-old Zia Mehta opened the dance floor and then everyone joined in. Our DJ Shailendra Dusaj was busy manning the music to the various requests made by all. Everyone danced away doing the Macarena, Electric slide, and to many lively Indian songs, provided by Yasmin Ghadiali. The highlight was the chicken dance which had to be repeated by popular demand from the kids. They just wanted it over and over again. It was wonderful and very heartwarming to see the little children dancing away. They were awesome. As Khursheed Navder said the chicken dance gave her a great cardio workout. Hoshi Merchant did a great job entertaining the kids with hide and seek games and giving them a good time.

We also had amid us, Lina and Neville Golvala who had just managed to arrive in New Jersey by catching the last flight leaving Puerto Rico and were lucky to get away from the hurricane. Neville explained that the island of Puerto Rico is a tropical paradise. However, hurricanes are common in the area. When the hurricane hit, the airports were closing and there were no flights. Late that night they noticed lights on the runway. A single flight had landed, and soon they were aboard and winging their way to safety. We pray that their relatives and friends back home in Puerto Rico, get back to their normal life very soon.

Nawaz updated the group with the next two events (Oct 21 at Duke Gardens in Hillsborough NJ and Nov 11 at Dar E Mehr for a Project Linus group activity to make blankets for children in hospital). We also announced the sale of an attractive book "Rationalism in Zoroastrianism" to collect funds for a memorial brick for the author, a beloved friend of Zarathushtis, Kersee Kabraji. (Contact Nawaz for details.)







Music resumed, with Twist, Jive, Waltz and Hindi numbers. After dessert and some more dancing, the function ended with a beautiful rendition of the Parsi, American and Indian National Anthems by our own TENOR Fali Shroff who did a marvelous job. Together the group swayed, danced, kicked our feet in the can-can. What a blast!

Remember, all are welcome to join! The organizers are thinking of different ideas for the future get togethers. Please be on the lookout for the announcements and do join in next time along with your grandchildren and have a great time.



#### **Z-GOLDIES- FUNCTION**

#### BY LOVJI AND RUPY HAKIM

The Z Goldie's Happy Thanksgiving Function at the Darbe Mehr on Saturday, November 11th was a roaring success



Z-Goldies Thanksgiving function

judging from all the various activities that took place that day. We had an appreciative and enthusiastic crowd of over 50 attendees most of them being....you guessed it, Zarathushti Goldies!

We began the function with the usual greetings of friends and the warm welcome by the hosts of the Z-Goldies committee and the volunteers who make up this energetic group with a delicious serving of hot coffee and tea.

All of us welcomed the Chief guests for the occasion Father Tommy and Sister Mary of the Bel-Air Center in Panchgani who were invited and honored by the WZCC committee. We then proceeded to the first part of the day's activity, a lecture by FR. Tommy and Sister Mary organized by WZCC. After a brief introduction by Edul Daver on behalf of WZCC we witnessed a video

presentation of Bel-Air and an inspiring and a heartfelt lecture by Father Tommy who moved the audience with the narration of his experiences upon arrival in Panchgani and all the numerous difficulties he encountered in establishing a Center for Medical and nursing care for the poor HIV patients. Father Tommy mentioned that he came across Bel-Air by chance and God's grace when he was sent from his Mission to aid the people of Maharashtra during flood and earthquake disasters. He was not aware of Bel-Air's Parsi connection till he got involved in its management. He recalled that Bel-Air was originally founded by Dr.Rustomji B. Billimoria in 1912 as a T.B. Sanatorium, where it stands on the sprawling 44 acres in Panchgani, Satara District. It was gifted by Sir Dorabji Tata and later handed over to the Red Cross in 1964.



Bel-Air Hospital, Panchgani

This 240-bed hospital consists of 58 heritage bungalows. Since 1994, the Hospital has enlarged its mission to address the challenges of an unfolding disaster relating to HIV/AIDS. This was at a time when hospitals in India refused to admit HIV/AIDS patients. Government of India gave no support and Anti- Retroviral Therapy (ART) was not available. Families abandoned patients and dead bodies were not even claimed due to the high level of stigma and discrimination. Bel-Air now under the able guidance of Father Tommy has pioneered treatment and care of HIV/AIDS in India and today is one of the best treatment and National training centers in India. Bel-Air has

admitted and treated 20,650 HIV/AIDS patients and over 50 patients are treated on an out-patient basis daily. The hospital has a very high success rate in HIV/AIDS treatment and is considered as a fine example of a friendly environment and a place which successfully tackles stigma and discrimination.

Father Tommy deserves high praise and gratitude in overcoming countless difficulties in interacting with the local and national Indian bureaucracy and even reaching out to the then President Abdul Kalam to help him establish Bel-Air as a leading Hospital Center for the treatment and care of the poor patients. Thank you, Father Tommy, for your tireless effort and hard work in support of this great Institution.

Father Tommy's lecture was followed by a talk from Sister Mary on nursing and the training facility for nurses at Bel-Air. We congratulate Sister Mary on receiving the prestigious Global award and recognition from the Nursing Association, USA. We wish her continued success in teaching nursing at Bel-Air.

After the WZCC presentation we all converged for a delicious Thanksgiving meal lovingly prepared and generously donated by the various volunteers. Prior to serving the meal Ervad Pervez Patel recited Humbandhagi prayers and Father Tommy recited a thanksgiving prayer.

The meal was sumptuous with delicious turkey, chicken, stuffing, sweet potato, cranberry sauce, roasted potatoes, green beans and many other trimmings. The thanksgiving feast was made possible by the Goldie's volunteers Yasmin Ghadiali, Aban Chavda, Nawaz



Making blankets for the Linus project

Merchant, Toni Ghadially, Sheroo Kanga, Rupy Hakim and Teshtar Irani. We followed that up with sweet tooth pleasers of several desserts including the traditional and favorite pumpkin and apple pies. Kamal Merchant managed the kitchen with willing help from several kind Goldie's volunteers.

After this delicious meal the volunteers generously packed the left overs in little goodie bags and distributed them to the Goldie's. Thanks everyone, that was a delicious thanksgiving meal that hopefully becomes a recurring event every year!

After the meal, all the Goldie ladies convened to work on several tables to tackle the challenge to make as many blankets as possible for the Linus Project. With scissors in hand the ladies got to work and together made a lot of Fleece blankets for the kids. Mahrukh Cama, Nilufer Daver, Yasmin Ghadiali and others taught the team how to make the baby blankets from soft fleece, using scissors in an easy no-stitch method. Natalie Gandhi donated wool for the activity. It is immensely creditable that Irandokhth Khodadi, an expert knitter and a fellow Goldie lovingly made and donated 2 blankets and 22 knitted hats for men, women and children. We thank her for her effort and kind thought toward those less fortunate.

Some of these blankets and caps were later distributed to the less fortunate and homeless by Yasmin Ghadiali, at a Brooklyn Church where she volunteers. The other items will go to "Lifting up Westchester" organization. Some of the caps were also distributed to the "Veterans" by Jamshed Ghadiali. The Goldie's especially enjoyed the opportunity to work together and share their camaraderie and stitching and knitting expertise for a worthy cause.

On that day, we also collected a sizeable number of toiletries and canned goods which were donated to the "People to



Blankets and knitted hats donated to the Brooklyn Church and "Lifting up Westchester"

People of Rockland" charitable organization. Thank you, all donors, for your contribution.

We thank Ervad Pervez Patel for leading us in the Yatha Ahu Vairyo and Dao Tandorosti prayers and their respective translations in the Prayer room.

The Goldie's take this opportunity to thank all the Volunteers and leaders who make these events possible with their funding, planning, generosity, time and effort. Thank you!

## NEW DAR-E-MEHR BUILDING COMMITTEE TRANSFERS REMAINING PROJECTS TO DMZT TRUSTEES

Fundraising for our new Dar-e-Mehr started as early as 2010 with construction of the new building commencing in 2014. The new Dar-e-Mehr Building Committee sincerely thanks the core group that volunteered with unmatched commitment and sacrifice to maintain detailed records, communicate with the membership, disburse funds, and work with the contractors during this period.

Deepest thanks also to each and every volunteer who devoted countless hours to successfully coordinate the building of our new Dar-e-Mehr, as well as several post construction Phase II enhancements.

And, thank you to the numerous volunteers who were called upon to contribute their time and expertise on specific aspects of the building and phase II enhancements.

It is now time for the Building Committee to pass on the baton to the DMZT Trustees and entrust the remaining projects for our new Dar-e-Mehr in their very capable hands. From January 1, 2018 DMZT Trustees shall take over the responsibility and allocated funding for successfully completing the remaining projects - Audio Visual, Stage Ventilation, and Landscaping.

# Deepest thanks to every volunteer who devoted countless hours to successfully coordinate the building of our new Dar-E-Mehr.

And, The Building Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all the DMZT Trustees, past and present, for supporting the New Building Initiative and enabling the various teams and committees to work efficiently so as to get us to the finish line on time and on budget. A special shout out to our youth member trustees and volunteers for their significant time-commitment despite the many demands on their time.

The "Operating & Maintenance Cost Fund" (O&M Fund) initiative was launched by DMZT on November 5, 2017 at the Dar-e-Mehr. Details for the O&M Fund can be found on page 21 of this newsletter. The new building Fund Raising Committee has been called to duty to accept this new challenge and help place DMZT funding on a firm footing to meet the operating and maintenance costs for our new Dar-e-Mehr. Your continued support will be invaluable to them and the success of this new initiative!

Thank you,

New Dar-e-Mehr Building Committee

#### NEW INITIATIVE – OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE COST FUND

## **Objective**

To develop and establish an "Operating and Maintenance Cost Fund" corpus (O&M Fund) in the amount of \$1,000,000 (one million) to generate investment results to supplement DMZT earnings used for the operating and maintenance costs

of the new Dar-e-Mehr and reduce the burden on contributions from ZAGNY and IZA to meet these costs for any given year.

## **Need for Creating A Fund**

At the DMZT Annual General Meeting on May 7, 2017, DMZT Trustees noted that the increase in net operating and maintenance costs for the new Dar-e-Mehr is slightly higher than what was initially projected. Operating and maintenance costs increased from approximately \$25-30,000 in previous years to \$60-70,000 for the new building.

ZAGNY and IZA remain obligated and will continue to contribute their respective share towards the operating and maintenance costs. In addition, ZAGNY and IZA will generate supplemental funds as necessary, through membership drives, fundraising events and activities to meet with the increased operating and maintenance costs. If necessary, DMZT may also from time to time, engage in fundraising efforts with ZAGNY and IZA to raise additional amounts.

DMZT Trustees, ZAGNY Board, IZA Board and the new Dar-e-Mehr Fundraising Team unanimously agree that to enable the DMZT Trustees to effectively and efficiently operate and maintain the Dar-e-Mehr, it is prudent to supplement DMZT earnings with investment results to help meet the increased operating and maintenance costs of the new Dar-e-Mehr. This would be achieved by creating the O&M Fund.

## How the Operating and Maintenance Cost Fund Will Work

DMZT Trustees are entrusted with judiciously managing the O&M Fund monies and will appoint an Investment Committee of three community members to guide their investment decisions. DMZT Trustees, in consultation with the Investment Committee, may elect to have the funds managed by a professional money manager.

Each year, the O&M Fund corpus amount shall be adjusted to increase for the inflation rate (CPI) published by the government. Investment results in excess of the adjusted O&M Fund balance (corpus + CPI), shall be distributed to the DM Maintenance Account. Amount, timing and manner of distribution shall be determined based on discussions between DMZT Trustees, ZAGNY Board and IZA Board. All monies in the DM Maintenance Account shall be used solely for the operating and maintenance costs of the Dar-e-Mehr.

## **Operating and Maintenance Cost Fund Drive**

O&M FUND DRIVE: DMZT shall, along with ZAGNY and IZA, raise funds for the O&M Fund by forming a Fundraising Committee. Raising funds for the O&M Fund is a long-term initiative that will span over the next five years from 2017-2021 and will be called "Project Twenty - Twenty-one" (Project 2021). The target amount to be collected for the O&M Fund by the end of Project 2021 shall be \$1,000,000 (one million) + CPI.

Donations / Pledges will be at the following levels to encourage participation from all age groups, especially our young adults: Diamond: \$3,000/Year for 5 years - total of \$15,000

Gold: \$2,000/Year for 5 years - total of \$10,000

Silver: \$1,000/Year for 5 years - total of \$5,000

Other: \$XXX/Year for 5 years - total of 5 times \$XXX

Lump-sum up-front donations from donors who would like to make a one-time contribution to the O&M Fund will be greatly appreciated. It will go a long way in establishing the O&M Fund and help to start reducing the burden on ZAGNY and IZA. Please keep DMZT in mind for your end-of-year charitable contributions and send your contribution (payable to DMZT – memo line O&M Fund) by December 31, 2017. A Donation / Pledge form for Project 2021 is attached for your convenience.

Your support and generous contributions in the past have made our dream of a new Dar-e-Mehr a reality, and the pride this collective effort has generated for our tri-state community is priceless! Let's ensure that together, we continue to care for our Dar-E-Mehr, so we may enjoy it today, tomorrow and always.

# I shall pass this way but once. Any good that I can do let me do it not. Let me not defer or neglect if, for I shall not pass this way again." – Stephen Grellet

## A THANK YOU NOTE FROM ADINA AND MAYA MISTRY



We are happy to share that the Lifting Up Westchester Holiday Lift Food Drive on November 5, 2017 at the Dar-e-Mehr was a big success. Our goal to have the Zoroastrian community participate and be amongst the organizations that support Lifting Up Westchester was achieved only because of all your contributions - Thank you!

Your support and encouragement mean so much to us and even more to the families that your contributions will help this holiday season.

Thank you so much!

Adina and Maya

#### SWAB FOR SHARMIN

#### BY RAFIYA KHAN AND YASMIN GHADIALI

Feb. 4, 2018. It was a successful humanitarian service project conducted at our Dar-e-Mehr. Sharmin, a 40-year-old single mother of two, living in Melbourne, Australia, was recently diagnosed with Chronic Lymphatic Leukemia (CLL). The best cure for her is to find a matched donor for bone marrow transplant. Her only sister is not a genetic match hence she has to depend on others. She is more likely to find a match from the same ethnic group. Yasmin and Jamshed Ghadiali arranged to register people from the community to find a match for Sharmin or any other patient in need for a cure.



Registering to find a bone marrow match for Sharmin

SAMAR, a community-based organization and an official legacy recruitment group of "Be the Match" a congressionally authorized national database, registered 11

committed people at the event. Many had registered at previous drives conducted by SAMAR at ZAGNY events. All eligible candidates between the ages of 18 to 44 yrs. came forward to be swabbed for testing to save a life. At the function, thanks to Parizad Cama we have two more drives planned, at her office and her neighborhood. Mindi also organized one at her office. There are lots of patients like Sharmin depending on us for their lives. If anyone wants to plan a drive please contact Yasmin and Jamshed at <code>ghad@optonline.net</code> they can help you with all the details.

FEZANA has drives planned at all associations. If anyone is unable to attend you can still join the Registry online as follows *join.bethematch.org/samar*.

## Could you be a match?

- If you are between 18-44 yrs. and in good health.
- Registering involves submitting basic paperwork and an easy painless swab from the inside of your cheek.
- You must be willing to donate to anyone who needs this life saving treatment.

#### **Few Facts:**

- Every 3 minutes a person is diagnosed with leukemia and other life-threatening blood disorders.
- Even full siblings have 25% chance to be a match. Patients depend on others most of the time.
- Ethnic minorities are vastly underrepresented on national registry list, making blood disorders minority patients face an even greater uphill battle. PLEASE register if you meet the criteria needed and encourage your friends and families to do the same. Every Zoroastrian has heard "HAPPINESS COMES TO THEM WHO BRING HAPPINESS TO OTHERS"

### ZAGBA, ZAPANJ AND ZAGNY JOINT CLASS

#### By Parastu Dubash

On Saturday, September 16th, the Arbab Rustam Guiv Dar-e-Mehr Zoroastrian Temple was the site of a special gathering of three Zarathushti associations: ZAGNY, ZAGBA and ZAPANJ. ZAGNY once again hosted the two associations for this shared experience - highlighted by religious classes for the youth, an adult discussions session, community prayer and of course, food.

About 50 ZAGBA members rode on an early morning bus from Boston while approximately twenty drove in their own cars. While driving in cars gave the flexibility of stopping when needed, riding on the bus came with the bonus of eating picnic favorites like Sali per eedo, pora paun, egg salad and chutney sandwiches while singing traditional and funny songs. ZAPANJ members arrived at the Dar-E-Mehr at the same time as ZAGBA members. All guests were welcomed and greeted warmly by Zagny hosts. Many guests took photos of the stunning façade of the Dar-e-Mehr against the blue skies, and many family members posed in front of this magnificent structure. Many guests noticed with delight the new flame on the fountain at the front of the building.



ZAGBA and ZAPANJ members arrive at the Dr-E-Mehr

Upon arrival, the guests enjoyed morning chai with bagels, pastries, cake, tea, and Indian snacks. The group then proceeded outside for the group prayer. Ervads Farhad Panthaki and Rohinton Dadina, dressed in white daglis, led the adults and children in the Yatha Ahu Vairyo, Ashem Vohu and Yenge Hatham prayers.

Forming a large circle around the central green, everyone held hands while they prayed together. It was a powerful and beautiful experience shared by about 200 adults and children. Arzan Wadia climbed high upon the Dar-e-Mehr to look out upon the circle, take unique photos and share his video live on Facebook.



Following the outside prayers, there were indoor prayers inside the Kebla prayer room. Children and young people were invited to sit within the prayer room, while adults watched from just beyond the Kebla, through the glass wall to view the Boi ceremony. The Atash Niayesh and Tandorosti prayers were performed by Ervads Dadina and Panthanki.

The children and youth then had their religious classes in the upstairs rooms. Coordinated by Lovji Cama, the volunteer teachers Avan Patel, Pashna Munshi, Shiraz Antia, Cyrus Toorkey, Farhad Panthaki, Tanaz Karai, Xerxes Kotwal, Vahishta Gati and Tashan Mistree engaged the students in many fascinating topics. Among the topics covered were the significance of the Navjote ceremony, meaning of Ashem Vahu and Yatha Ahu Vairyo prayers, the importance of Atash in the Zoroastrian faith, and using History and Historical Sources to answer the question, "how we know what we know."

In the main hall, Navaz Merchant, ZAGNY Member and FEZANA liaison gave a presentation on FEZANA, its associations, committees, activities, and scholarships. Students who won various FEZANA and ZAGNY scholarships were announced.

The adult discussion session began with a film on identity which was a 20-minute documentary titled, "Parsee and Me," from YouTube created by Ava Patel of UK. This film helped raise several interesting issues and Natalie Vania led the

discussion encouraging audience members to share their ideas. Some of these themes were also listed on a handout that had been placed on each table. These included: identity, obscurity, marriage, accomplishments of Zarathushtis, religion in the secular west, national identity, and survival. Although it was difficult to hear the video as well as many of the audience comments in the large room, the issue of identity is one that is central and significant as was evidenced by smaller group

discussions continuing even after the main session was completed.

This was followed by a tasty lunch of rice, dar, keema, pasta, and achar. There were so many dedicated volunteers who served the food efficiently and with a smile. Other activities of the day included a WZCC fundraiser and a fashion display of Ashdeen Lilaowala's Gara creations.

ZAGNY member Edul Daver gave adults and kids rides in his 1931 Ford Model A. Thank you to Edul and Niloufer Daver who generously shared their vintage car with the community for this day.

On display and for sale were hand-embroidered sarees, shawls, and clutch purses by designer Ashdeen Lilaowala. Lauded in India and around the world for his work, Ashdeen brought his collection to exhibitions in California, New York and New Jersey earlier in the summer. His unique designs, based on old Gara motifs, were admired by so many who were impressed by his exquisite work.



Edul and Niloufer Daver's 1931 Ford Model A

The day came to an end with a cake cutting by the presidents Astad Clubwala, Meenaish Damania of ZAGNY, ZAPANJ and ZAGBA respectively. Donations were made by the associations as well as individuals toward this special event.

A heartfelt thanks to all the Presidents and their Board who planned this event and the volunteers who helped make this a very enjoyable event. This has become a special experience that adults and children from all the associations enjoy and look forward to every year.

## **MUKTAD 2017**

Every year our ZAGNY community offers us the opportunity to join in for Muktad prayers on the holy Gatha days. This year the prayers were held from Saturday, August 12th through Monday August 14th. To accommodate various locations and work schedules, prayers were held in the evenings on the weekdays at the home of ZAGNY hosts and on the weekend, at

the Dar-E-Mehr. Our gracious hosts were Dinaz and Farhad Subjally, and Rustom Bhopti. We offer them 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. Community members signed up and attended in the event at our new Dar-E-Mehr. 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.

This year we had something different for food. It was brought in as a potluck by some of our wonderful volunteers. We had several types of mixed Dhansak Dal, Chawal, Kachumber and chicken Kabobs. Sheroo Kanga made delicious maleeda, which she provided to the host families as well. Teshtar Irani coordinated these efforts. We also had several volunteers in the kitchen helping with the food, layout and clean up.

Zagny members and other Zarathushtis 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 of whom prayed at different homes and at the ceremonies at the Dar-E-Mehr. Their chanting filled the room and along with the Atash helped us all with finding peace.

We offer our heartfelt thanks to each and everyone involved with the Muktad prayers. It was truly a community event.

## SOLAR SYSTEM - COMMISSIONED ON JULY 27TH, 2017

With the construction of our new Dar-e-Mehr building complete, we set our sights on Phase II needs and enhancements. A Solar System to generate electricity for our Dar-e-Mehr was on our wish list. Zoroastrian values embody respect for the environment and action to revert climate change. Looking back, many of our customs and traditions are designed to align with these modern concepts.

A solar system would not only reduce electricity costs and thus overall maintenance costs for our Dar-e-Mehr, it would also impact our environment positively and be in-keeping with our scriptures and faith traditions. We worked with GeoPeak Energy, a company we are familiar with since they had installed home solar systems for some members of our community. GeoPeak estimated the cost of a solar system for our Dar-e-Mehr to range between \$150-\$200,000, and after considering Federal & State incentives, the pay-back period was estimated to be about six years. The first challenge was to raise funds required for this project. We were cognizant of the fact that the tri-state community suffered donor fatigue having stepped up to the plate to raise approx. \$5.5 million for the recently completed new Dar-e-Mehr building.

The second challenge was that DMZT, being a non-profit, could not benefit from the tax credits & incentives, making the payback period much longer than the estimated six years. To overcome these challenges, Edul Daver worked with A Javan (AJ) of GeoPeak for over a year to find a third-party investor. However, all efforts seemed futile since the project was commercial and relatively too small to get investors excited. It was then decided that the best option was to find a group of people within our community who would form a Company, invest the monies, take the incentives, and supply DMZT with solar generated electricity at a discounted price and later, when most of the investment had been recouped, consider selling the assets to DMZT. This proposal was explained, and an email communication distributed to the community inviting potential investors for the project.

We were pleasantly surprised when we immediately got seven (7) individuals willing to invest a total of \$156,000, including two individuals who are not even from the NY area but feel strongly that our solar project is a novel idea and is in-keeping with our Zoroastrian values. Total project costs were firmed up at \$168,000 and with a \$22,000 rebate from NY State the net project cost to investors would be \$146,000. There was considerable work required to form ZSolar LLC, have a partner's agreement, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with DMZT, quarterly NY state reports etc. GeoPeak helped with the Request for Quotations (RFQ), specified the

equipment and reviewed the contract on our behalf, all at no cost, as a favor due to AJ's relationship with and respect for our Zoroastrian community. The solar system installation contract was awarded to RGS Energy and a detailed contract

drawn up. The installation was carried out flawlessly without any hurdles and as of July 27, 2017 the solar system is in operation at our Dar-e-Mehr. DMZT will currently receive electricity with a saving of about 35% and in a few years when it acquires the assets about 93% of its needs would come from solar energy with a cost saving of about \$10,000 per year.

Facts about the Solar System:

- The System Power Rating is 58.4 KW DC System.
- It utilizes 172 Canadian Solar Panels and 3 Fronius Invertors.
- The solar generation will be 65,000 kwh (or 93% of theoretical needs)
- We have a net metering system arrangement with the Utility Company, which means that when we generate more electricity than what is used we feed it back to the grid and our meter runs in reverse (there will be some months when we generate more than we use and in winter we will likely generate less than we use, making it necessary that we conserve energy when possible and not get into a frame of mind that we can use more electricity because we have a solar system).
- "The Magnificent Seven" has proven to be a very workable model that should be an inspiration and considered by other Associations, especially those that are in States offering "Net Metering" and other renewable energy incentives.

#### ZAGNY LECTURE SERIES

#### Erach Munshi Memorial Lecture: Yazdi Tantra

### Sunday, October 15, 2017

The annual Erach Munshi Udvada fundraiser and Jashan sponsored by Lovji & Mehru Cama and Hanoz and Minaz Munshi and their families was held on Sunday, October 15, 2017. This year the accompanying Erach Munshi Memorial Lecture was given by Yazdi Tantra, WZCC Global Vice President. Yazdi is involved with Udvada activities and shared his vision on "Udvada Then, Now and in the Future". He is a firm believer that the internet will help unite the far-flung Zoroastrian community across the globe and towards that end he promotes several Zoroastrian Websites. He provided interesting insights into the wealth of Zoroastrian related information available on his site zoroastrians.net.

## Synopsis: Voices from Back Home: Porus Cooper

## Sunday November 5th, 2017

Porus P. Cooper is a proud Zarathushti, an amateur student of Zarathushti life and history, a long-time member and past president of the Zoroastrian Association of Pennsylvania and New Jersey (ZAPANJ). Professionally, he is a journalist and editor. In the video, "Voices from Back Home", the audience heard from two individuals who hold positions of influence in the Zarathushti community in its heartland of Mumbai, India. Khushru Panthaky is principal of the Cama Athornan Institute in Andheri, Mumbai. Ramiyar Karanjia is the principal of the Dadar Athornan Institute in Dadar, Mumbai. They teach future priests, and since we are a community uniquely dependent on our priests to define our religious and communal identity, their influence runs deeper than might appear at first glance. Porus interviewed them during a recent visit to Mumbai, seeking their insights into questions that have preoccupied him: Just what does it take to be a Zarathushti? How worrisome is the dwindling size of the community?

## Success in a professional career & investing wisely: Toos Daruvala

Sunday, December 3, 2017

Organized jointly with WZCC-NY chapter.

Toos N. Daruvala is co-Chief Executive Officer of MIO Partners, Inc., the McKinsey Investments Office (MIO). Toos joined McKinsey & Co in 1983 and was elected Senior Partner in 1995, a position he held for 20 years. Toos has counseled CEOs and senior executives at a range of financial institutions, information, and transaction services players on strategy and operational matters. Toos reflected on his 30+ year career at McKinsey to draw practical lessons for success in a professional context. Skills and qualities such as curiosity-based problem solving, structured communication, results orientation, people leadership, and a values mindset are essential. He says, be aware of and fully leverage your unique strengths, while working to get to an acceptable level on your flat spots. Most important, apply these skills in a way that is authentic to who you are remember, there is no single recipe for success! Toos also offered his perspectives on investing based on his board and operating experience in asset management. According to him, investing can be intimidating and can be full of pitfalls. It can seem overly complicated, but it doesn't have to be that way. A few basic principles can help you navigate the thicket. Toos advised, save early; compounding is magical. Invest in something other than cash; it typically offers the least return. Diversify; it's a way to reduce risk and optimize return. Avoid complex and expensive products; they eat away at your returns. And optimize for taxes.

## Private Sector, Public Service: Narges Kakalia

Sunday, February 4, 2018

## Organized jointly with WZCC-NY chapter

Narges Kakalia is a commercial litigator and partner at Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC. She represents clients in disputes involving commercial insurance claims, financial services and corporate governance. In addition, she handles asylum claims on behalf of victims of torture and persecution, has been helping indigent immigrants obtain political asylum and U visas, and serves as Mintz Levin's Ombudsperson and helps manage the firm's pro bono program. Narges has been involved with pro bono immigration work for 15 years. Most recently, with the ACLU, she co-counseled a challenge to President Trump's first travel ban. Narges also serves as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of Womankind, a non-profit n NY that provides services to victims of domestic violence, human trafficking and sexual assault. Narges is the recipient of numerous awards and most recently was listed by Crain's as the "Leading Women Lawyers in New York City". Narges provided an overview of her legal practice and more generally discussed the current legal landscape for immigrants.

## 'Yearning to See You': Friendship and Alliances between Iranian and Indian Zoroastrians: Prof. Dan Sheffield

## Sunday, March 4, 2018

Daniel Sheffield is Assistant Professor of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University., where he specializes in the religious, intellectual, and social history of the medieval and early modern Persian-speaking world. He holds a Ph.D. in Iranian and Persian Studies conferred by the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at Harvard University in 2012. Dan is a specialist in exchanges between Safavid Iran and Mughal India, and, the history of Zoroastrian communities during this period. In 1478, an Indian Zoroastrian named Nariman Hoshang arrived in the village of Turkabad in Iran, reconnecting the previously isolated Indian and Iranian Zoroastrian communities with one another. Over the course of the next three hundred years, dozens of letters were exchanged between the communities of Gujarat and Iran, along with gifts, ritual materials, and religious manuscripts. In his talk, Dan examined the friendships, trade partnerships, and intellectual networks that formed between Indian and Iranian Zoroastrians in the early modern period to sketch out new approaches to the shared history of the Zoroastrian community.

## ZAGNY UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

Date	Event	Venue

April 2018					
Thu, Apr 26 @ 8:00 am - Sun, Apr 29 @ 5:00 pm	FEZANA Annual General Meeting 2018	Los Angeles, CA, USA			
May 2018					
Sun, May 6 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	DMZT Annual General Meeting	Dar-E-Mehr*			
Sun, May 6 @ 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Religious Class for Kids: May 2018	Dar-E-Mehr*			
June 2018					
Fri, Jun 1 - Mon, Jun 4	11th World Zoroastrian Congress 2018	Perth, Australia			
Sun, Jun 3 @ 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Religious Class for Kids: Jun 2018	Dar-E-Mehr*			
Fri, Jun 1 - Sun, Jun 3	Ivy Gandhi Youth camp	Dar-E-Mehr			
Sat, Jun 30 @ 6:00 pm	Parsi General Fund Raiser & Jashan	Ghadiali Residence			
July 2018					
Sun, Jul 15 @ 11:00 am - 5:00 pm	ZAGNY Picnic	TBD			

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

## **ZAGNY celebrates a New Navar – Ervad Cyrus Dadina**



Navar Cyrus Dadina with his family

ZAGNY is proud to announce that 12-year-old Cyrus Dadina, son of Ervad Rohinton Dadina and Navaz Katki had his Navar ceremony on Sunday, December 24, 2017, Roj Ava, Mah Amardad at the Vatcha Gandhi Agiary in Mumbai. His Navar was conducted by two veteran priests, Ervad Aspandiar Dadachandjee and Ervad Adil Bhesania.



Navar Cyrus Dadina

Cyrus studied and prepared for the Navar Ceremony for more than a year under the guidance of his father.



New Navar Cyrus Dadina performing the Boi ceremony at the Dar-E-Meher

He stayed at the Agiary for a total of 22 days, during which he had two Nahns for 9 days each followed by the Navar ceremony and 3 subsequent days of Yezashne and Baj prayers after the Navar.

On Sunday, January 7, 2018 ZAGNY felicitated Cyrus on his high achievement at an acknowledgement ceremony held at the Dar-e-Mehr, where he performed the Boi ceremony accompanied by his father, in the presence of the religious class students and their parents. We look forward to his participation in future jashans and religious ceremonies. May Ahura Mazda grant Ervad Cyrus health, happiness and success in all his future endeavors.

## **BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS**



## **Arianna Leigh Faiman**

Daena and Jordan Faiman proudly announce the birth of their daughter, Arianna Leigh Faiman on September 1st, 2017 in Ewing, New Jersey. Proud grandparents are Toni and Viraf Ghadially.



#### Asher Neville Clubwala

Astad and Behroze Clubwala are delighted to announce the birth of their grandson, Asher Neville Clubwala, born on Monday 18 September 2017, in New York City, to Neville and Raquel Clubwala. Asher was born on Adibehesht Roj and Adibehesht Mahino, on his late great grandfather Jehangir K. Clubwala's 99th Roj Birthday. Asher was blessed by the presence of Mani J Clubwala, his great grandmother.



## **Cameron Nentin Graniero**

Aban and Gev Nentin are delighted to announce the birth of their grandson Cameron Nentin Graniero, born on December 5, 2017, Behram Roj, Tir Mah at 2:36 am to their daughter Sheri and her husband Joe.

Heartiest congratulations to the families and ZAGNY welcomes our newest additions to the community.

#### SAD DEMISE

**Mr. Floyd Wittlin**, brother of Barry Wittlin, brother-in-law of Piroozi Cooper-Wittlin, husband of Paula, father of Maggie and Natalie, brother of Steven, brother-in-law of Lauren, uncle of Elliot, Rhonda, Cyrus, Mallory and Morgan and great uncle to Yasmine, passed away on August 4, 2017.

**Mr Ganesh Gupta**, brother-in-law of Rakesh and Percis Bansal, husband of Jyoti Gupta, father of Gautam and Harsh Gupta, uncle of Amit, Rahul and Rohit Bansal, passed away September 10, 2017.

**Dr. Faruk Presswalla**, passed away peacefully at the age of 76 on November 1, 2017, in Richmond, VA. Faruk is survived by his wife, Daisy, brother Cyrus from Toronto, Canada, sisters Zarine Shah and Hilla D'Souza, from Austin, Texas and several nieces and nephews in India and United States.

**Ervad Darius Antia** passed away on November 6, 2017. He is survived by his wife Hilla, daughter Shiraz and son Shehriyar, daughter-in-law Nerina and son-in-law Zarir, and grandchildren Shirin, Dinyar, Azad and Tahmir. Ms. Shernaz Sethna, wife of late Rusi Sethna, cousin of Lovji, Rohinton, Noshir & Fram Cama, passed away on November 18, 2017 in Atlanta, GA. She is survived by her son, Zubin, daughter-in-law Tuli, and grandchildren, Amy and Diana.

Mrs. Jer M. Pochara passed away on January 1, 2018, at the age of 93. She was wife of late Maneck Pochara and Mother of Hormazd, Peri, Bomi, Billy and Mother-in-law of Mehzabin, Maki, Yu and Grand Mother of Shania, Nozer, Cyrus, Persis, Diana and Neville

**Ervad Dara Sethna** passed away peacefully at the age of 92 on January 3, 2018 in Toms River, New Jersey. He is survived by his wife Homai Sethna, and daughter Dinaz Bengali, son in law Minoo, and grandchildren, Shawn and Pearl.

**Ms. Sheroo Contractor** passed away on January 14, 2018. She is survived by her sister Roshan Hakim and husband Khushru Hakim, their children Friaan Hakim and Zubin and Chris White and their families. Sheroo is also survived in Baroda, India by her brothers, Jamshed and Ami, Behram and Daulat Contractor and nephew Percy Patel in Houston, TX and his sister Diloo and family in Nagpur.

Mrs. Behroze Sam Wadia, wife of Sam Wadia, beloved mother of our ZAGNY member Arzan Sam Wadia and Mehernaz Shovir Irani, mother in law of Shirin Kumana Wadia and Shovir Irani, and grandmother of Ava. She passed away in Mumbai on January 31, 2018.

Mrs. Najoo Sohrab Postwala, aunt of the Gandhi siblings, Homi, Firoze, Rusi, and Mani, and their families, died peacefully on February 12, 2018. She had reached the age of ninety-eight years. Rusi expresses that Najoo and her husband, Sohrab, did not have children, so they considered Rusi their son. This last December, Rusi was fortunate to visit her with his wife, Natalie, and his daughter, Asha, to spend quality time. Najoo was happy seeing the family. As the siblings say, "May her noble soul rest in eternal peace" and all are thankful to ZAGNY for extending its deepest sympathies.

**Mr. Rohinton Randelia** passed away on March 5, 2018. He is survived by his wife Daisy and daughters, Farah and Friya. Rohinton is also survived in Mumbai, by his parents Mani and Ratansha Randelia.

**Homi Phirozshah Bhappoo** (88) passed away peacefully at home on March 15, 2018. Husband of Nergish, father of Dilnavaz Mirza, late Maharukh Marshall, Zenobia Hansen and Mehernaz Zarolia. Grandfather of Zarin, Zal, Arzan, Kainaz and Arish.

May Ahura Mazda grant eternal peace to the dearly departed and may their soul proceed to Garothman Behest. Condolences to the families from the ZAGNY board.





## From the East Coast

Daily non-stop service from New York (JFK) to Delhi, with continuing service to Mumbai

Daily non-stop service from Newark to Mumbai, with continuing service to Delhi

Three weekly 787 *Dreamliner* flights from Newark to Ahmedabad (via London/Heathrow)

Three weekly non-stop flights from Washington, D.C. to Delhi



## From the Midwest

Daily non-stop service from Chicago to Delhi, with continuing service to Hyderabad



## From the West Coast

Six weekly non-stop flights from San Francisco to Delhi, with continuing service to Bengaluru

#### **Seamless Connections from our Delhi Hub**

Passengers continuing to Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Kochi via *select* Air India flights can clear customs and immigration upon arrival at their final destination.

We also have service from Delhi and Mumbai to over 50 other cities across India and South Asia. For details, fares, and reservations, contact your travel agent, or call 800-223-7776.

अर इंडिया



#### DAR-E-MEHR ZOROASTRIAN TEMPLE Arbab Rustam Guiv Dar-e-Mehr

106 Pomona Road Suffern, NY 10901

2017-2018 Trustees

Chairperson: Marzie Jafari\ Secretary: Faii Shroff (Treasurer: Anita Taisha) Trustees: Darius Mody) Gev Nentin (Ferzin Patel

#### PROJECT 2021

#### OPERATING & MAINTENANCE FUND - DONATION / PLEDGE FORM

Yes! I / We would like to support Project 2021 and contribute towards the Operating & Maintenance Fund for our new Dar-e-Mehr with the following donation / pledge —

First Na	ame:		Last Name:				
Addres	s:						
City: _		State:	Zip: _				
Home Phone: Email:							
	☐ A LUMP-SUM ONE-TIME DONATION in the amount of (please check applicable box) -						
		Diamond Donor \$15,000		Silver Donor \$5,000			
		Gold Donor \$10,000		Other Amount \$			
Enclosed check#, payable to DMZT - memo line O&M Fund							
□ PLEDGE: Diamond Donor Total \$15,000 \$3,000 via check# with an annual pledge of \$3,000 payable in 2018, 2019, 2020 & 2021							
		E: Gold Donor Total \$10,000 via check# with an annua	pledge of \$2,000 payable	in 2018, 2019, 2020 & 2021			
	PLEDGE: Silver Donor Total \$5,000 \$1,000 via check# with an annual pledge of \$1,000 payable in 2018, 2019, 2020 & 2021						
		E: Other Amount Total \$ via check # with an annual		ble in 2018, 2019, 2020 & 2021			
	STOCK	DONATION - Please contact Minu D	utia at <u>dutiaminu@yahoo</u>	.com for detailed information			
Please make all checks payable to: DMZT – memo line O&M Fund Mail checks to: Minu Dutia, 1 Broadview Drive, Medford, NJ 08055							
Email Form to: nentin@optonline.net, dutiaminu@yahoo.com, nina@zagny.org, eduldaver@gmail.com							
Signat	ture:		Date:				



Kayomarz Khambatta ZAGNY Secretary 106 Pomona Road, Suffern, NY 10901