



ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW YORK

NEWSLETTER

February 2019

THE ZAGNY Z-TWEENS AND TEENS VOLUNTEERISM AT THE DAR E MEHR – AUG 2018

As the new Dar-e-Mehr building completes its second year in existence, the Trustees continue to manage various projects and efforts to improve the building's appearance and oversee the yearly maintenance of the building.

An effort was put forth by ZAGNY teen parent, Tina Daroowalla and DMZT Trustee Ferzin Patel to organize a summer volunteerism project which would not only encourage the youth to become more involved, but also help with the yearly upkeep of the building. The response was overwhelmingly positive, and many youths stepped up to offer their time and energy to helping with projects like cleaning out and organizing the kitchen drawers and storage pantry, washing all the trays and serving bowls, cleaning and scrubbing the pots and pans. With the assistance of DMZT Trustee, Fali Shroff, the kids took command of all that was needed to be done that day. The dirt, scrapes and scuffmarks on the walls and doors were met with the gentle yet strong hands of our youth washing and removing stains. They collectively decided as a group how they wanted to arrange the Recreation Room with the new indoor Basketball Game donated by one of our own members. They worked as a team and got the job done in a 5-hour time span.

The kids then had pizza for lunch and discussed additional improvements and ideas on how to get the youth more involved. The overwhelming response to this effort has encouraged us to do this every quarter and encourage youth from both associations to participate. A big thank you to our youth volunteers, they include, Cyrus Dadina, Rayan Daroowalla, Adina and Maya Mistry, Sanaeya and Yazna Nalladaru, Kaneesha Nadar, and Davin Patel.

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Tina Daroowalla at tdaroowalla@yahoo.com.

Our new Basketball and Foosball games in the recreation room donated by the Marolia-Dabhoiwala family

IN THIS EDITION

Z-Tweens	1
Parliament of world religions ...	2
Annual summer picnic	4
WZCC Gambhar	5
Z-Goldies	9
Parsee General Fundraiser	11
Parsee New Year	11
O & M cost fund	12
WZCC NY Chapter Meeting	13
Addressing homelessness	15
Thank You Note	15
P W Original	16
Community News	18
Calendar of Events	20

FEZANA BULLETIN

Subscribe to FEZANA'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

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

7TH PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS (POWR) – NOV 1ST

Z BOOTH AT INTERFAITH FAMILY FESTIVAL

By Nawaz Merchant



Armaity Anandasagar and I teamed up to create a Zoroastrian booth for children at the POWR in Toronto this year. The theme "what's in your pocket?" focused on the Gereban, or symbolic pocket of good deeds in the Sudreh. We displayed an enormous 5 Foot sudreh, accompanied by a diorama of three mannequins, showing a Dastoor (priest) in white jamo, a child navjote in sudreh, kusti and topi and the mother in purple Gara saree. Posters explained the tenets of our religion, Good Thoughts, Good words and Good deeds, and the navjote /Sudreh pushi initiation ceremony where the child in invested with sudreh and kusti as daily reminders to live a good life.

At our booth, children and adult visitors made crayon rubbings of the farohar, atash, guardsmen, and winged bull symbols. They collected stickers of Atash, Farohar and Cyrus Cylinder, and learned about Cyrus the Great's declaration of Human Rights from 2500 years ago! Each child got a small envelope labeled 'my pocket of good deeds'. Visitors also wrote messages of love and condolence to the Pittsburg Tree of Life congregation tragically affected in the recent shooting. Many thanked us for doing this and providing them with the address, so they could send their own letters as well. Volunteers from Ontario, (with Gulnar Jefferies from ZAGNY) managed the booth during the 6-day festival to welcome and address visitors throughout the day, and to assemble and disassemble the booth.

IMPRESSIONS OF THE POWR

This was my first Parliament, so I had no idea how enormous the scale of this event was. It's the 7th Parliament since inception. Many have heard of the first Parliament in Chicago, 1893, when Swami Vivekananda introduced Vedanta and Hinduism to a western audience. In 2018, as many as 220 religions were represented with thousands of attendees.

2 Imagine Toronto's Metro Convention center, an enormous eight floor space, filled with international people in the traditional regalia of all countries and regions, music and shows on various stages, dozens of sessions on various topics being held in different rooms at the same time, enormous art exhibits and service projects, an exhibit hall so large one could not cover it in a day, and you get a sense of what the parliament was like. It was impressive!

Participants enjoyed exquisite music, singing, indigenous dances and drumming, and short talks by articulate speakers in the plenaries. Multiple tracks focused on themes to organize the talks, film viewings, and workshops. The Sikh community offered a free langar lunch for 2500 people daily, with welcoming smiles and fantastic organization. Throughout the day, interfaith groups performed music and singing circles, which invited viewers to join.

The Zoroastrian team hosted two booths, a choir performance of monajats in Gujarati and English, and several speakers on topics as varied as countering gender hate speech, to morning prayers and Jashan ceremony. Armin Mody's talk on her work at Ashta No Kai was well received. Many talks were held at the same time. Parisa Khosravi's dynamic speech at the opening was a first exposure to Zoroastrian religion for many people.

The Parliament introduced me to many topics I had not previously understood: how indigenous children were sent to Residential schools in Canada and the US, the plight of Hopi tribes whose native lands are being commercialized even now, and who have no voice in Federal courts; the Sikh people's sorrowful remembrance of the 1984 genocide in India; the plight of north African refugees of whom only 7% will reach Europe after repeated attempts to escape refugee camps. Speakers exhorted us that leaving religion out of politics is leaving ethics and morality out of it too! While most stayed away from current issues, the mid-term election was impending, drawing both amusing asides and hopeful remarks.

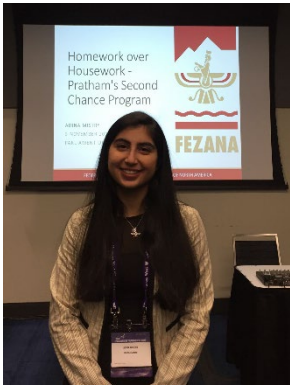
For me, the sheer number of interfaith activities and initiatives is staggering and awe-inspiring. Key takeaways were: each faith directs us to the same goal. There are many highways, but all lead to the same place. All humanity, all life and the planet, is one. If we act with this in mind, we cannot go wrong.

HOMework OVER HOUSEWORK: THE PRATHAM SECOND CHANCE PROGRAM

By Adina Mistry

As a 17-year old, and first-time attendee at the Parliament of the World's Religions (PWR), I was amazed at the number of participants at the event. Attendees came from all over the world, speaking different languages, following different faiths, but all united to promote the theme of the Parliament, *The Promise of Inclusion, the Power of Love: Pursuing Global Understanding, Reconciliation, and Change*.

It was with a great sense of pride that I participated as part of the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America (FEZANA) team and accompanied Dolly Dastoor at the opening of the Assembly for the Dignity of Women on November 3, 2018. It was a terrific experience for me to represent my Zoroastrian faith as part of the procession of pairings of inter-generational female representatives from thirteen faith traditions. The ceremony required Ms. Dastoor to add a stone to the central altar on the stage, while I added a flower and recited a quote from Yasna 41.2, "May a good ruler, a man or a woman, rule us, in both existences," chosen to signify the equality between women and men.



Later that afternoon, I was excited to present on the topic I am passionately committed to, the education and empowerment of young women, and introduced our audience to Pratham for my presentation on the panel, "To Give Voice to the Voiceless: Empowerment of Marginalized, Vulnerable Women and Girls Through Education Programs". My presentation, "Homework over Housework: The Pratham Second Chance Program," highlighted the stories of struggles for many young women in India and their reasons for dropping out of school. However, some of these young women are united in their endeavor to get back what they once lost: a chance to complete their secondary education. Pratham's Second Chance Program gives them, a second chance to put education first.

Presenting alongside accomplished panelists, Armine Modi and Father Tomy Karyilakulam, gave me a unique insight into how organizations, with differing goals, serve a common larger purpose. It was truly inspiring to hear about the work of Ms. Modi's NGO Ashta No Kai, and Father Tomy's Bel-Air Hospital of the Indian Red Cross Society, and the change they have been able to bring about through their efforts. I hope that one day I will also be able to effect change on a larger scale.



Pratham USA

I was introduced to the Pratham in 2015 when I presented the Second Chance Program at the 58th Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations. After learning more about the Program, I was drawn to the plight of young women struggling to get an education and felt compelled to do my part to help them. I volunteered at a Pratham balwadi (preschool) in the slums of Mumbai, India and taught English and math during the summer of 2015. Through my first-hand experience with Pratham, I realized that even a primary education is a struggle and privilege for millions of children around the world. I returned home determined to try to make a difference and founded the Pratham Club at my high school with a mission to raise awareness and funds for women's education in India. In less than one year, we raised over \$1,000 for Pratham's Second Chance Program, enabling two young women to complete their secondary education and giving them a chance to break free from the cycle of illiteracy and poverty, for as Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

I would like to thank Homi Gandhi, Behram Pastakia, and Dolly Dastoor of FEZANA for their support and encouragement which motivates me



to continue to present Pratham's Programs at public forums to raise awareness. Thanks also to Puja Ogale of Pratham for helping me with the information requests for my presentations.

ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC – JULY 8TH, 2018

By Kate Wadia

This wonderful event was organized by Cyrus Pavri. We all gathered at the picnic area at Crestwood Lake, Allendale and played various games, such as badminton, catch, soccer, frisbee, etc. Then there was the most incredibly delicious barbecue with such yummy items as sausages, hot dogs, various kinds of burgers, corn on the cob and an array of different salads and other appetizers. Then the children and a few adults walked over to the lake, where there was so much fun to be had! People were able to swim in very warm water, sunbathe and enjoy a frozen treat, the kids went down water slides and off the diving board and had an absolute blast. After a few hours at the lake, we walked back to the picnic area, where we were able to have seconds of the incredible main courses because of course all that swimming makes you hungry and treat ourselves to some outstanding desserts.



The day was simply perfect in every way: we were very lucky with the weather as it wasn't too hot or muggy, the company was wonderful and everyone could be seen laughing, smiling, and having great conversations, the food and drinks were absolutely delicious – a huge thanks to everyone who cooked/contributed, and the activities – both at the picnic area and at the lake – were truly wonderful and oh so much fun.

It's during such amazing events that we all get closer to each other, can relax and enjoy each other's company, have great conversations, share jokes, etc. It also brings us all so much joy to see our kids have such a wonderful time together and not want to leave. My children, and I am sure many other parents would agree, on the way back home couldn't stop raving about the picnic and saying how they were already looking forward to the next event at ZAGNY.

WZCC GAHAMBAR AND FUNDRAISER – JUL 29TH, 2018

By Natalie R. Gandhi & WZCC-NY Organizing Team

Sunday, July 29, saw a magnificent mid-summer Maidyoshem Gahambar hosted by WZCC's New York Chapter along with IZA and ZAGNY. A big thank you to Behram Pastakia for providing a spark which ultimately led to the Gahambar materializing in New York. About 260 people gathered at the Dar-e-Mehr in Suffern, New York for a full day of activity. As people arrived in the morning, reception was provided with tea, coffee and breakfast treats, while they enjoyed visual treats of Gahambar pictures from around the globe painstakingly sourced by Behram Pastakia, Yasmin Ghadiali and Lovji Cama, as well as a traditional Gahambar foods display table decorated by Darius Jamshidian and Yasmin Ghadiali.



Prayers, including a recitation of the "Atash Niyash", commenced in the prayer hall with Ervad Xerxes Antia and Ervad Noshirwan Hormuzdiar. In a historical first, Mrs. Khurshid Mehta recited along with the priests after her training of many months. The three religious figures led the congregation from the Prayer Hall to the Main Hall where prayers, the "Satum no Kardo" and "Doa Tandrosti ", continued. After prayers, the three reciters were offered a token of appreciation by our very young entrepreneurs, Zane and Zia Mehta, and Asha Gandhi, in thanks for priestly blessing.



6

WZCC President Edul Daver then introduced WZCC New York Chapter Chair Darius Jamshidian and speaker Lovji Cama, who shared their knowledge on Gahambars and the significance for community efforts. Celebrating Gahambars together as a community has been the long-standing inspiration and vision of our Chapter Chair, Darius, making WZCC New York's event a dream come true. Darius elaborated on the Iranian traditions of seasonal Gahambars. He put a special emphasis on how each Gahambar requires an effort from every community member, rather than only being underwritten by a well-off sponsor. The events are free, yet each person brings what he or she can to assist in providing the community's feast and day's work (such as cleaning the Dar-e-Mehr's grounds or other projects). Whether rich or poor, each one's good thought and effort makes the day special.



Lovji extended Darius's theme and spoke of the seasonal connection, Nature's connection, of the Gahambars to our worship and celebration of harvests. He talked of our duties to observe the Gahambars.

WZCC New York was honored on this inaugural Mailyoshem Gahambar to greet and felicitate visiting Zarathushti youth



mentor Mr. Xerxes V. Dastur of V.S. Dastur & Co. - Chartered Accountants, WZCC-India Director, and newly elected BPP Trustee (see www.vsdasturco.com). Xerxes addressed the New York Community and took questions. Xerxes touched on several topics - indication of specialized professional expertise in foreign taxation accounting, his awe-struck appreciation of our new Dar-e-Mehr in Suffern, the need for the community to work in harmony and advance worldwide in great projects, and uplifting prospects for the Youth. Discussions with Xerxes expanded after his address to the general audience, over economic conditions in India with Rusi Gandhi, Mumbai dynamics with Homi Byramji, and factors affecting trusts with Keyan Jamshidian.

Xerxes has been especially phenomenal in leading a Mumbai WZCC Youth Coffee Group and its online WhatsApp group. He came bearing gifts for the New York



Community and entrusted several fine books to Lovji Cama for ZAGNY's library. Xerxes also provided the WZCC New York Chapter with a presentation, "Investment and Tax in India". One can contact him at dasturxerxes@gmail.com to get a copy. Xerxes continues his North American visit next with the Chicago Chapter.

As lunch proceeded, the fun continued through the day.

The WZCC New York Chapter held a productive raffle and silent auction. Exquisite items were available after careful



7 curation by Arnaz Maneckshana, assisted by Niloufer Daver, Nina Mistry, and Piroja Press. Nina wrote e-Blast announcements for the community and had logistical matters planned on a meticulous spreadsheet to coordinate all volunteer efforts for the event. Youth member Maya Mistry assisted through the day to insure logistics proceeded smoothly. Auction items were generously contributed by Niloufer and Edul Daver, Yasmin and Jamshed Ghadiali, Rashna and Kersi Harda, Sheroo and Vispi Kanga, Goolcher and Kayomarz Khambatta, Irandokt Khodadadi, Arnaz Maneckshana, and Nina and Adil Mistry. The rally was a grand success with about \$4,700.00 raised by the raffle, auction, and voluntary contributions from

attendees. With the dedicated effort of Treasurer Noshir Dutia, new members were recruited, and new dues were collected.

Lunch and refreshments were prepared by Z-Goldies ZAGNY volunteers Mehru Cama, Aban Chavda, Behroze Clubwala,



Kamal Davar, Jasely Dukandar, Kashmira Dutia, Yasmin Ghadiali, Toni Ghadially, Kashmira Karai, Khurshid Mehta, Nawaz Merchant, and Khrushheed Navder, as well as IZA volunteers Pervin Irani, Irandokt and Tamineh. It included traditional Parsi and Persian Gahambar dishes such as vegetable stew, sirog, sali-marghi, doonou, masala daar-chawal, sabzi paloa, kachuber, rotli, persian bread, and custard accompanied by fruits, nuts and ravo from the prayers.

The mixed audience with Iranian and Parsi Zoroastrian attendees gave us a convivial environment for networking and meeting people. We were pleased to see first-time and returning attendees at the event. We were graced by the presence of Prof. Alexander Nagel, currently from the

Smithsonian Institution, who was, as were some others, seeing our marvelous jewel of a Dar-e-Mehr for the first time. The Organizers of the event, the WZCC New York Chapter Team Members, and their assists from DMZT, IZA and ZAGNY, had much delight in arranging the event. Doing something together and making it successful for everyone gives the volunteers a good feeling. Mention should be made of WZCC President Edul Daver, Past Chair Arnaz Maneckshana, Treasurer Noshir Dutia, Niloufer Daver, Teshtar Irani, Nawaz Merchant, Nina Mistry, and Piroja Press who did a great deal of planning. Arzan Wadia assisted with audio-visual arrangements and Kerman Dukandar documented the event in pictures available on Google Photos at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/S6bVYd3YeqSytuLRA>. The entire Jamshidian family, Linda, Keyan, and Tara got involved in the raffle and in heart-felt contribution. Helpers included Veera Bharucha, Shailendra Dusaj, Aysha Ghadiali, Kayomarz Khambatta, Hoshi Merchant, Adil Mistry, Rusi Press and enthusiastic youth volunteers Xaera and Xerxes Mehta, Farah Randelia, and Zahra Schenck.

Special mention must be made of Yasmin Ghadiali and her husband, Jamshed. Jamshed coordinated the effort to register donors for the SAMAR bone marrow program. Yasmin coordinated with the Z-Goldies and IZA to prepare the wonderful lunch. Yasmin and Jamshed provided handouts for the prayers and visited Suffern to set up arrangements at the Dar-e-Mehr from Friday and Saturday to the day of the event, Sunday. Others involved in setting



up on Friday or Saturday included Lovji Cama, Edul Daver, and Darius Jamshidian, assisted by our caretaker Wayne. WZCC New York Chapter organizers wish to especially thank the attendees and their contributions to the Chapter. We view this as a great vote of appreciation for the Chapter and a positive response to almost two wondrous decades of Chapter activity. We are enthused by you and hope to continue raising WZCC excitement across the globe. Gahambars have been held throughout North America over the years. The Florida Chapter of WZCC hosts them frequently and one of our Chapter members remembers an occasion in San Jose with very fine Iranian home cooking. Tea and coffee, even some more prayers, wrapped up the day. As all journeyed home, they could look forward to a new week after the inspiration of the sunny Sunday.

Z GOLDIES IN 2018: ACTIVE AND ENGAGED!

BY NAWAZ MERCHANT

PERSIAN LUNCHEON – APRIL 22ND, 2018

On April 22, about fifty members of the Z Goldies group partnered with IZA to enjoy a splendid Persian themed event, starting with a meet & greet with tea, coffee and cookies followed by a short prayer by Ervad Noshirwan Hormuzdiar to celebrate the Avan Roj.



We also met a small group of visitors from Tashkent and Azerbaijan who enjoyed our Dar-e-Mehr.

The highlight of the event was the Shahnameh reading, a section of text read aloud in Farsi and then translated into English by Fuad Adib, Shiva Ghowsi, Khosrow Ghazi and Kavooos Gojgini.

The group enjoyed Carom and made blankets for our Project Linus program.

We ended with Falooda and Baklawas.

As always, there were no charges, as the Z Goldies program is entirely run by volunteers and members.

THE DMZT PARSİ + PERSIAN BRUNCH – SEP 30TH, 2018

The brunch was a hit on September 30, with a host of activities and prayers.



At the brunch we witnessed a reunion after 40 years, of old friends Silloo Parakh and Perin Ramachandran of Avabai Petit School, Bombay.



DINNER CRUISES AROUND THE NEW YORK HARBOR - MAY 17TH AND JUL 11TH, 2018

A group of 24 GOLDies joined Edul and Nilufer Davar to enjoy a lovely breezy harbor cruise on May 17.



A smaller group went on July 11th. Meeting at Perth Amboy, the music, the scenery and the enjoyable company made these a grand way to spend an evening with friends, skim the waves and enjoy the comfortable accommodation on the Cornucopia cruise line.

TRIP TO SOMERSET COUNTY'S VAN DER GOOT ROSE GARDEN – JUN 21ST, 2018

On June 21st, the GOLDies group visited the Rose Garden and breathed in the blooms clustered over arbors and in clumps along brick paths.



The lily pond was enchanting, the smell and touch garden held a profusion of mints, basil, lamb ears and herbs beckoned our touch! We delighted in the summer breezes and excellent company!

INTERFAITH VISIT TO BAPS TEMPLE – JUN 12TH, 2018.

A small group of Z-GOLDies visited the BAPS temple in Robbinsville NJ with its beautiful architecture on June 12, 2018.



The BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir has a philosophy of devotion and service. This Mandir aims to "serve as a place of understanding and appreciation of India art, culture and religion for generations to come."

The Z-GOLDies group felt uplifted by the guided tour and welcome in this serene and beautiful site.

GAHAMBAR – JUL 29TH, 2018

The Gahambar attracted a record attendance for the Gahambar prayers, talks and delicious food.



It was a joint endeavor which gained much appreciation.

THE SOUTH JERSEY LADIES NIGHT – OCT 11TH, 2018

The ladies night supported the fundraiser fashion show for local non-profit Shine and Inspire.



GOLDIES THANKSGIVING BRUNCH – NOV 11TH, 2018

The brunch was enjoyed by all on Nov 11 with a traditional Thanksgiving feast, prayers and a talk by Lovji Cama where the audience read out and joined the prayer projected on slides.



THE B. D. PETIT PARSEE GENERAL HOSPITAL 32ND ANNUAL FUND RAISER – JUN 30TH, 2018

By Meherzeen Daruwala

The 32nd Annual Fund Raiser for The B. D. Petit Parsee General Hospital was held at the Arbab Rustam Guiv Dar-E-Mehr on June 30, 2018. The evening started with a 'Jashan' and over 80 Zoroastrians were present.

The 'Jashan' was followed by appetizers and the dinner hosted by the Ghadiali family. The members, and the Zoroastrians of USA and Canada have been generously donating to this cause since 1986.

This year we have collected over \$30,000.00 and since we started \$675,000.00 (approx.) The evening was filled with camaraderie and joy and a great time was had by all present.

We sincerely thank every community member for their support and encouragement they give us. The Board of PGH also thanks the Zoroastrians of USA and Canada.



PARSI NEW YEAR – AUGUST 18TH, 2018

Parsi New Year was well attended and celebrated at the Dar-e-Mehr on 18 August 2018. The event started off with delicious appetizers to greet those who had traveled long distances – Tava fried fish, Chicken tikka kabab, Kofta kabab and Harabara kabab. The children's dinner was served early along with the appetizers, so we had happy and contented kids who then enjoyed the evening dancing and playing games organized for them by Sam Shroff and Meherzeen Daruwala. Sam's warm energy and abundance of enthusiasm got the kids excited and in high spirits.

There was good participation by the children who were cheered on by the many grandparents present and the special smiles on their faces as they walked away with prizes was a treat.

This year, thanks to the proactive effort of Laehr Mistry, several younger guests who live in New York City attended the celebrations and appreciated the delicious Parsi cuisine.

Many thanks also to our young DJ, Porus Pavri who kept the music flowing throughout the evening.



The highlight of the evening was the extraordinary middle eastern dance performance by Aisha. With a combination of beauty, emotion, elegance and great dance technique, Aisha enthralled the audience with her breathtaking performance. The variety of dances included performing with a tray of candles, sword balancing, feather fans and the most spectacular multi colored lighted veils. Her show was enjoyed both, by the younger adults as well as the suddenly energized elderly who with feigned hesitation jumped up to dance with her!

Traditional Housie was then brought back with the familiar, back-home sounds of, "sweet 16", "unlucky for some" and "two fat ladies".

The entertainment was followed by a delicious dinner prepared by Mehernosh Daroowalla's Karma Kafe - Dhan dar, Shrimp patio, Rasmalai and Sooji halwa for dessert.

Good music and dancing followed which filled the evening with fun

and enjoyment right up till the very end.

OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE COST FUND

O&M FUND UPDATE

The "Operating & Maintenance Cost Fund (O&M Fund)" initiative was launched on November 5, 2017 with a goal to collect a corpus of \$1,000,000 over the next five years ending in 2022.

Thanks to your generosity, just one year later, we are over 40% of our goal with pledges amounting to \$443,014. Donors who have sent us completed Donation/Pledge Forms, thank you! All other donors, please send in your completed Donation/Pledge Forms at the earliest to help us with accurate record-keeping - thank you!

Cash collections currently amount to \$162,478. Please remember to mail in your checks for pledges due this year before December 31, 2018 and help us reach our goal of a \$200,000 cash balance by the end of 2018.

Please make checks payable to DMZT and mail to, Minu Dutia, 1 Broadview Drive, Medford, NJ 08055.

A special request to our friends who have not yet pledged - please keep DMZT in mind for your end-of-year charitable donations. Your support is critical to getting us to 50% of our goal with pledges amounting to \$500,000 by the end of this year!

Please see the following Information Flyer with O&M Fund details and current status along with Donation/Pledge Form for your convenience.

Thank you! Thank you!! Thank you!!!

A NOTE OF THANK TO THE O&M FUND SUPPORTERS WHO ATTENDED THE PARSİ/PERSIAN BRUNCH FUNDRAISER - SEP 30, 2018

Your presence and participation made the Parsi/Persian Brunch Fundraiser for the O&M Fund truly memorable on many counts

186 Attendees! We were thrilled to spend the afternoon with 186 friends, well over the initially estimated number.

15 Delicacies! We had an exceptional menu line-up of Parsi and Persian foods - Akuri-Toast, Pora-Rotli, Kheema Pattice, Chicken Farcha, Kolmi-no-Patio, Kando-Papeto, Aush Maash, Aush Reshteh, Cutlets, Kuku Sabzi, Lubia Polo, Sev-Dahi, Copra-Pak, Kumach, Sholeh Zard - thanks to all the IZA and ZAGNY volunteers who generously contributed every menu item and cooked tirelessly to dish out the delicious brunch.

"Sold Out"! Your enthusiasm helped us sell all the generously contributed home-made treats and goodies, adding to the funds raised at the event.

42 New Donors! Including 10 young adults and an 8-year-old who promised to do chores for the \$2,500 he pledged.

Over \$140,000! Total amount raised from the Fundraiser (registrations + new pledges and donations + food sales) taking Total Pledges over \$400,000 and closer to our goal of raising \$500,000 by the end of 2018.

A heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who shares our commitment to protecting our investment in our Dar-e-Mehr! We are convinced that those who could not attend and those who attended but were unable to commit at the event, also share our commitment and will join this effort by supporting the O&M Fund, so that we have close to 100% participation from our local community. We are counting on your continued support, help and encouragement!

Thank you,

Fund Raising Team

WZCC NEW YORK CHAPTER MEETING, OCTOBER 7, 2018

"PROMISES & CHALLENGES OF GENE EDITING"

WZCC-NY is very proud to recognize young entrepreneurial talent in the revolutionary field of Gene Editing. A record crowd of close to 100 were present to hear Dr. Neville Sanjana discuss the "Promises & Challenges of Gene Editing".

The Meeting started with Neville meeting informally with children and asking them what they wanted to do when they grow up and briefly explaining this complex field in the simplest form possible. We were happily surprised that some of the youngster knew something of the subject and asked pertinent questions. This experience will motivate us to continue exposing youngsters to WZCC presentations.

The riveting session then moved its focus to the adults where questions were a plenty. All in all, it was a very successful afternoon which has been very eloquently summarized by sixteen-year-old Shirin Dadina below:

SUMMARY OF NEVILLE SANJANA'S DISCUSSION ON GENE EDITING BY SHIRIN DADINA

Ever wondered why you will not have to worry about dwindling chocolate supplies? Genetics may have a larger impact on the food you eat daily than you realized. Those present at the Dar-e-Meher on Oct 7th, 2018 had the privilege of meeting, a young Zarathushti who was most recently named by FEZANA as one of the emerging leaders in North America, Dr. Neville Sanjana. Winner of multiple awards, Core Faculty Member at the New York Genome Center & Assistant Professor of Biology at New York University, Dr. Neville Sanjana presented his outstanding work on gene editing that captured the

attention of the audience. From the young students to the elderly everyone in the audience wanted to learn more about the role of gene editing in the world today and Dr. Sanjana's presentation brought about many insightful discussions thereafter.

As Dr. Sanjana explained to the many curious children who had the opportunity to ask him questions, his love for science and biology came about when studying biology in high school. He was initially interested in engineering and building things through programming and ultimately seeing everything come together. His love for computer science led him to become interested in programming for humans and building things not with code, but rather, with proteins! From there, after completing his undergraduate at Stanford University, Dr. Sanjana went on to gain his Postdoctoral Fellow in Brain and Cognitive Sciences at the Broad Institute of MIT.

The floor was initially opened to young budding scientists/students awaiting to meet Dr. Sanjana. They asked and received answers to many insightful questions such as cloning of various species and the number of cells in the human body. Dr. Sanjana was seemingly impressed by how involved these young kids already were in their own scientific communities. The children eagerly expressed their own interest in scientific careers such as starting their own research companies.

For his presentation, Dr. Sanjana started off by introducing what gene editing (a process emerging as an essential tool for biomedical science) is all about. Using a simple analogy, Dr. Sanjana was able to explain gene editing and his work at a high level. One can think of the genome as a thick book containing many complex words that make up sentences where each gene represents a word. Gene editing essentially uses "scissors" to remove a certain word without affecting other words around it. Gene editing guides the repair of the double helix structure by making a particular cut in a specific location. Finding a needle in a haystack is an accurate representation of what Dr. Sanjana's work consists of in his lab. His goal is to identify which gene is responsible for certain diseases. Once a set of genes is found, they can be manipulated to create resistance against a particular disease. This work has given Dr. Sanjana insight into previously unrecognized mechanisms of resistance and potential therapeutic targets for rare diseases.

14 The presentation focused heavily on identifying the genome editing tool, previously referred to as "scissors". This revolutionary technology is commonly referred to as CRISPR-Cas9 (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats). CRISPRs are specialized stretches of DNA that have made what was once a very difficult task, cheap and reliable. Dr. Sanjana referenced the Model T car when describing the impact CRISPR has and will have on the scientific community. The Model T car was not the first of its kind and yet it changed everything in the world of transportation.

CRISPR burst quite rapidly onto the scene and swept through laboratories after observations made by the yogurt company, Danisco. Scientists found that only some bacteria successfully produced yogurt. These bacteria had a set of genes that encoded CRISPR proteins. These proteins fended off viruses in order to culture the yogurt. This "adaptive immunity" system was then harnessed by clever researchers to make very precise alterations to just about any sequence in just about any genome. Research surrounding gene editing is being conducted around various sub-specialties such as cancer immunotherapy, metabolic disorders, malaria resistance, engineered food products and food security.

The discussions that followed Dr. Sanjana's presentation brought up compelling conversation from the audience. When asked about the effect of the Jiyo-Parsi movement, he noted the possibility of an increase in recessive diseases in the community. Topics that have a big impact in today's society were also discussed such as humans having the power to use gene editing in un-ethical ways, impact of climate change can on our DNA and the controversy surrounding GMO food products. On the positive spectrum, the potential impact that gene editing can have on rare diseases such as hemophilia and cancers such as melanoma is huge. It is important to note that at this time, diseases are being treated largely by gene therapy (inserting functioning genes into cells to replace defective ones), distinct from gene editing which is not widely used for human therapeutic treatments just yet. The conclusion was that several of the peripheral social and cultural issues surrounding gene editing, require a discussion on a larger scale involving communities outside of the scientific field.

Even those not in the field of science were able to grasp the concepts of how this novel genetic technology is impacting society and its role in a larger clinical scheme. Dr. Sanjana was able to captivate the audience through his engaging presentation and personality after which everyone walked away excited with what they had just learned. Most

importantly, it inspired the youth by providing them with an example of the young Zarathushti leader who is clearly bound to have a revolutionary impact on their community as well as on a global scale.

A BUSINESS CASE FOR ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS IN YOUR COMMUNITY FROM SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR ANAHAITA KOTVAL

By Natalie R. Gandhi

On Sunday December 2, the New York Chapter of WZCC was honored to host Anahaita Kotval at the Arbab R. Guive Dar-E-Mehr in Suffern, New York. WZCC's President, Edul Daver introduced Anahaita who spoke on the topic of homelessness. The audience exceeded sixty people. Her talk covered common myths regarding the homeless, what data tells us, why the community should care, and solutions and engagement for business leaders.

Anahaita has made a chosen and fascinating transition from a successful corporate career to the non-profit sphere. She is currently the Executive Director of Lifting Up Westchester, a non-profit serving the homeless and low-income residents of Westchester County, New York.

After more than twenty years in the securities industry, Anahaita moved to the non-profit sector in 2011 and served for five and a half years as Chief Operating Officer & General Counsel for Inspirica, Inc. the largest provider of services to the homeless in lower Fairfield County, CT.

Prior to joining Inspirica, Anahaita spent thirteen years with RBS (formerly Greenwich Capital), as Managing Director and General Counsel, leading a team of seventy-five legal professionals. Prior to RBS, Anahaita was a Senior Trial Counsel for the US Securities & Exchange Commission.

Anahaita received a B.Sc. in Applied Math and Economics from Brown University in 1988 and a J.D. cum laude from Harvard Law School in 1991. She is committed to pro bono and volunteer work. Anahaita was a Director of the Pro Bono Partnership and received the Partnership's Volunteer of the Year award in 2003 and Volunteer of the Decade Award in 2007. She has served in many non-profit organizations such as Non-Profit Westchester, My Sister's Place, Westchester and Fairfield County Community Foundations, Women's Bond Club and mentored NYC high school students in preparation for their college journeys.

Anahaita gave the Chapter singular insight into the role of Social Entrepreneurship. Her inspiring journey to help those less fortunate in our communities give us hope in the better angels of our nature and provides something to model in our own undertakings. She found herself able to take extraordinary professional skills developed in the profit-making sphere into the non-profit world where leadership and financial acumen are especially needed.

Questions and answers covered a range of concerns. Some members expressed disappointment in their earlier efforts to assist less fortunate people. They were encouraged to take heart, renew their hopeful efforts, and never relinquish the humanity implicit in reaching out to others. A question was raised on proposed universal basic income as an assist, while Anahaita is focused on a verifiable success record for a least fortunate sector of society.

During Anahaita's talk, a vision of helping people throughout their journey to self-sufficiency was evident. Rather than invest in an overgrowth of initial, intense resources that may be exhausted after early use, Anahaita recommends the wiser course of resources successively invested over longer time-frames. The results are cost-effective for communities, moving people to sustained and stable independence.

Anahaita was queried on whether her vision is reflected in larger domains, such as nationally and through the USA Department of Housing and Urban Development. Indeed, a prudential assessment has led policy makers to now look at longer-term and careful evidence-based assists to the homeless than relied upon in earlier policies.

Chapter President Darius Jamshidian thanked Anahaita on behalf of the Chapter as he expressed new awareness about social conditions in Westchester county.

A delectable lunch was organized and provided by Jasely and Kerman Dukandar. Preparatory marketing for the event was carried out by Nina Mistry. Audio-visual and other assists also contributed to a well-run event. The WZCC event was held in conjunction with ZAGNY activities and assisted by coordination with ZAGNY.

A THANK YOU NOTE



We are happy to share that the Lifting Up Westchester Holiday Lift Food Drive on December 2, 2018 at the Dar-e-Mehr was a success thanks to your support and encouragement, which means so much to us and means even more to the families that your contributions will help this holiday season.

Thank you so much!

Adina and Maya Mistry

WELCOME TO P W ORIGINAL



PW Original is an e-commerce furniture-based company which provides modern yet practical designs, affordable yet exquisite selections to enliven the style and ambience of your surroundings.

My partner and I started this company a year ago because we believe everyone deserves to have a selection of furniture which is modern, stylish and affordable. Our mission is to ensure customers receive only the finest quality of products and excellent customer service – we ensure that each step of our process is quality checked prior to being shipped to you.

Do visit our website: www.pworiginal.com.

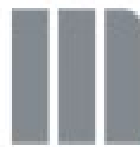
More about us: Our design teams transform global inspirations into breathtaking collections; distinctive furniture, artisan-crafted accessories that make powerful styling statements. Each season, we innovate, design and produce quality furniture, each piece being individually handcrafted with great care ranging from antique designs, handicrafts, and combinations of wood work, modern iron and metal art ware sourced from various indigenous parts of India. Our woodwork is seasoned, treated and finished to ensure durability and quality of each piece we provide.

If you have any questions about our products, please let us know. You can contact us at order@pworiginal.com. We are always here to help! Have a wonderful day and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Regards,

Partners at PW Original

Heyaz Colabavala



**millenium
tours**

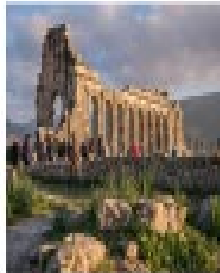
A Division of UNGLOBE Enterprise Travel Limited

Join us for our

13 DAY MAGNIFICENT MOROCCO TOUR

Departing April 19, 2019 TO MAY 2, 2019

Escorted by Nilufer Mama



Morocco has been immortalized in films, in part due to its rich heritage, and in part due to its regal nature.

Join us as we weave through its bustling streets, journey across beautifully varied landscapes, and immerse ourselves in the hospitality of one of North Africa's most well-known and enchanting countries.

Discover the Magnificence of Morocco on this 13 day tour of a lifetime!

Casablanca • Marrakech • Quarzazate • Erfoud • Merzouga •
Fes • Moulay Idris • Tetouan

Full Package Price from Toronto (Air and land)	CAD \$5,679
Land Only	CAD \$4,782
Single Supplement	CAD \$900



To reserve your booking or for additional information, please contact
Nilufer Mama at: nilufer@premieregroup.com

(416) 363-7491 ext. 4216 | (416) 346-0850



Travel Industry Council of Ontario

www.milleniumtravel.ca | 34 Britain Street, Suite 100, Toronto, Ontario, M5A 1R6

For more information, please visit: www.milleniumtravel.ca/magnificent-morocco

COMMUNITY NEWS

NAVJOTE



Congratulations to **Ara Riley & Torin Behram** on their Navjote Ceremony, on July 21, 2018 at Arbab Rustam Guiv Dar-E- Mehr, Suffern, New York. Grandparents, Farrokh & Gool Patel and parents, Brandon & Roshan Kelly wish them very best as they begin their Zoroastrian Journey

AWARDS

DINYAR WADIA



Dinyar received the 2018 Professional Excellence Award from the Society of Indo American Engineers and Architects (SIAEA) at their 38th Annual gala dinner in recognition of his achievements and pioneering leadership throughout his more than 40 years career.

His leadership as Principal of Wadia Associates, which strives to provide “traditional architecture for the modern world” and his commitment in the firm’s growth are exemplary and have also been recognized by the likes of the New England Hall of Fame and Serendipity magazines.

KHURSHED NAVDER

Professor and Director of the Hunter College School of Urban Public Health was invited to her alma mater, Kansas State University (KSU) to receive the “Distinguished Research Alumni Award” for 2018. The award recognizes alums who have made significant contributions to humanity, KSU and their profession through research.

This award comes on the heels of the “Hunter Presidential Award” recognizing her exemplary 25+ years of service and citizenship (2016), and the “Outstanding Dietetics Educator Award” in recognition of her teaching, mentoring and leadership activities (2014).



Heartiest congratulations to everyone from ZAGNY

SAD DEMISE

MR. HOMI PHIROZSHAH BHAPPOO

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

IRAJ YEKTASHENAS

One of the founders of IZA, Iraj Yektashenas passed away on March 18, 2018.

DARIUS KANDAWALLA

Mr. Darius Bejon Kandawalla, passed away on June 26, 2018

DR. FIROZ DARA MISTRY

Dr. Firoz Dara Mistry (79) husband of Pilo Mistry, son of the late Tehmi and Dara Mistry, brother of Khorshed (Sheetal), brother-in-law of Suresh Deshpande, and nephews Shailesh and Rajesh passed away on September 6, 2018.

MR. WALTER SCHENCK

Mr. Walter Schenck, loving father of members Adam Schenck and Spenta Cama, grandfather to Feroze and Zahra, passed away on September 6, 2018.

KEKI BUNSHAH

With great sadness, Keki Bunshah's family informs the ZAGNY community of the passing of Keki, on December 2nd, 2018 in Greater Atlanta, Georgia. Keki is survived by his wife Kuku, his daughters Freny Jokhi and Dina Bunshah, his son-in-law Burges Jokhi and grandchildren Jessica and Michael Jokhi.

RAMESH THAKRAR

It is with profound love and sadness that we announce that Ramesh Thakarar passed away on the afternoon of Friday January 4th, 2019 at the age of 77. He was surrounded by his loving family. Ramesh is survived by his beloved wife Gool, his cherished children Ajay, Sanjiv, and Dina and daughter-in-law Allyson, and his adoring grandchildren Eva, Audrey, and Annika.

FIROZA MEHTA

Ms. Firoza Mehta daughter of Kolly, sister of Jehangir, sister-in-law of Hinata, niece Xaera and nephew Xerxes, passed away after a sudden illness in Mumbai, India.

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.

ZAGNY UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

	Event	Date
MAR	Religious class and Board Meeting	Sunday Mar 3 rd
	CSW Participants at DarbeMehr	Sunday Mar 10 th
	Navroze function	Saturday Mar 23 rd
	Dar-E-Mehr 3 rd anniversary Jashan	Tuesday Mar 26 th
APR	Religious class and Board Meeting	Sunday Apr 7 th
	ZAGNY- AGM	Sunday Apr 7 th
MAY	Religious class and Board Meeting	Sunday May 5 th
	DMZT AGM	Sunday May 5 th
JUN	Religious Class and Board Meeting	Sunday Jun 2 nd
	Religious Class Graduation	Sunday Jun 2 nd
	North America Mobed Council	Saturday Jun 8 th – Sunday Jun 9 th
	Ivy Gandhi Youth camp	Friday Jun 21 st – Sunday 23 rd
	Parsi General Fund Raiser	Saturday Jun 29 th
JUL	ZAGNY Picnic	Sunday Jul 14 th
	WZCC Ghambar	Sunday Jul 28 th
AUG	Muktad for community at DarbeMehr	Sunday Aug 11 th
	Muktad - At member residence	Monday Aug 12 th - Friday Aug 16 th
	Parsi New Year Function	Saturday Aug 17 th
SEP	Combined Religious Class	Saturday Sep 14 th
	ZAGNY, ZAGBA, ZAPANJ and ZAMWI	
	Z Talent - O&M Fundraiser	Saturday Sep 28 th
OCT	Religious class and Board Meeting	Sunday Oct 6 th
	Udvada Atash Behram Fundraiser	Sunday Oct 20 th
NOV	Religious class and Board Meeting	Sunday Nov 3 rd
	Halloween Party	Sunday Nov 3 rd
DEC	Religious class and Board Meeting	Sunday Dec 1 st
	New Year's Eve Gala	Tuesday Dec 31 st

**OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE COST FUND of the
DAR-E-MEHR ZOROASTRIAN TEMPLE (DMZT), NEW YORK**

PROJECT 2022

OPERATING & MAINTENANCE COST FUND - DONATION / PLEDGE FORM

Yes! I / We would like to support Project 2022 and contribute towards the Operating & Maintenance Cost Fund for our new Dar-e-Mehr with the following donation / pledge –

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Email: _____

- A **LUMP-SUM ONE-TIME DONATION** in the amount of (please check applicable box) -
- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diamond Donor \$15,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Silver Donor \$5,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gold Donor \$10,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze Donor \$2,500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022
- PLEDGE: Gold Donor Total \$10,000**
\$2,000 via check # _____ with an annual pledge of \$2,000 payable in 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022
- PLEDGE: Silver Donor Total \$5,000**
\$1,000 via check # _____ with an annual pledge of \$1,000 payable in 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022
- PLEDGE: Bronze Donor Total \$2,500**
\$500 via check # _____ with an annual pledge of \$500 payable in 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022
- PLEDGE: Other Amount Total \$ _____**
\$ _____ via check # _____ with an annual pledge of \$ _____ payable in 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022
- STOCK DONATION** – Please contact Minu Dutia at dutiaminu@yahoo.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

Signature: _____ Date: _____

ZAGNY

106 Pomona Road,
Suffern,
NY 10901

Recipient Name

Street
City, ST ZIP Code

Address