



ZAPANJ

ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA AND NEW JERSEY

Newsletter May 2004

www.zapanj.org

President: Cyrus B. Toorkey **Vice President:** Banoo Karanjia

Treasurer: Cyrus Mehta **Secretary:** Aban Singh

Joint Secretary: Khorshed Vakil-Unwalla

ZAPANJ IS 25 YEARS OLD

Past news to share:



Navroze Function: We celebrated the 25th Anniversary of ZAPANJ Association at the Navroze function in March. We had our Annual General Meeting and we are glad to report that our association is doing very well in all respects. Some of the highlights of the function were: We honored our founding members and Dastoorjis- *Ervads Adi Unwalla* (in absentia) and *Noshir Karanjia* with a shawl and small poem. *Freny Ranji* was honored with a presentation of a small plaque and poem. During dinner, all the past presidents were welcomed with their spouses to the President's table. A cake cutting ceremony was held. A short speech by each of our past presidents about their years in ZAPANJ was given. We held a logo competition for all the children of ZAPANJ for the establishment of a new logo for our 25th Anniversary. Each participating child was awarded a certificate and goody bag

by some of our oldest members of ZAPANJ. *Ninoshka Singh* was the award winner for this logo competition. Her logo was voted upon by the membership as the best.



Prayer Class:

March-We had our traditional Hafta Shin table and all the prayer class children participated in explaining the various items on the table and their significance and the meaning of Navroz. *Darayus Kermani* aged 7 years, shared with us how his family celebrates and displays the table in his home. All the participating members of the prayer class cooked the food.

April-our cooks were *Nivedita Masani*, *Khorshed Unwalla*, *Persis Kasad*, and *Benaifer Eduljee*.

May- *Khurshed Bapasola* hosted this class and she was assisted by *Cyrus Mehta*, *Zarine Myers* and many other members. Our May prayer class was

eventful in that we wished one of our very popular and life members - *Zerksis, Nilofer, Sorab and Cyrus Boga* goodbye and good luck, as they are leaving this area and moving to sunny Florida.

As always, thanks to one and all, for making our prayer classes so successful and for all the delicious meals.

Guest Speaker- We also had a guest speaker in April, *Yasmin Kevala*, 8812 Tuckerman Lane, Potomac, MD 20854 to talk to us about Sun City Center- a retirement community located in Tampa, Sarasota Florida.

Donations: We have received all our donations that were pledged from our various members for the prayer classes. Thank you all for your help.

Future events to participate in:



June 26: Car Wash

Kyra Singh and Behnaz Toorkey are organizing this car wash as a fund raising effort for ZACCUE.

This will be held at the Culligan Water Supply Company, 3113 W. Ridge Pike Eagleville PA 19403. The car wash will be from 8.30 am-12.30 pm. Each family participating should bring at least 3 or more, old towels. Please come out and participate by joining us in assisting in washing cars or by bringing your car and getting it washed. Please call if you are interested in participating - *Kyra Singh* at 610-539-9229 or *Behnaz Toorkey* at 856-751-0633.



July 17: Children's Outing:

The ZAPANJ children outing is for all prayer class children who attend the prayer class. This year, we will visit the Camden Aquarium and a Firepower guided tour of the battleship U.S.S. New Jersey. The tour has to be booked in advance hence, please call *Freny Ranji* at 856-854-2251 and confirm whether you will be participating or not in this event no later than June 8, 2004.

ZAPANJ will pay for all children under 18 years. Parents and young adults will pay for their own admission tickets. (Adults - Aquarium-\$9.00 and Tour-\$16.00)

Please mark this date on your calendars.



July 24: Family Picnic: Our

Annual ZAPANJ family picnic will be at the Marsh Creek State park. We will all meet at the park around 10:00 am - ??? The park offers a variety of recreational activities, including boating, swimming, and volleyball.

Each family is requested to bring a potluck dish to share. ZAPANJ will provide the watermelon and paper products. Please RSVP to *Aban Singh* at 610-539-9229 or *Khorshed Unwalla* at 610-831-0716.

August 21: is the date set for our Papeti function at the Chateau Granieri. Details to follow.



Community News

Congratulations to *Cyrus Kanga*, an 11th grade student at Cherry Hill High School East. In February, Cyrus, representing CHHSE and Camden County, placed 1st in the annual New Jersey State DECA Career Development Marketing Conference. DECA (**Delta Epsilon Chi** Association of Marketing Students) is an international student organization involved with enhancing and refining career skills in marketing, management and entrepreneurship. A total of 700 students from New Jersey high schools, participated in the state tournament. Placing 1st in the state tournament in Retail Marketing Research, qualified Cyrus to be New Jersey's representative at the nationals held in Nashville, Tennessee, in May. At the nationals, where over 14,000 students participated, Cyrus placed 5th overall in his category competing against 360 students from around the country.

Adding to this, Cyrus was nominated by his teachers at CHHSE and the American Legion of New Jersey, to attend Boys State of New Jersey. This award enables Cyrus to attend Rider University in June, where the primary focus will be on public issues involving children within the State of New Jersey

On another note, the State of New Jersey named Cyrus to be a Governor's Scholar. In July, Cyrus will attend Monmouth University for four weeks and participate

in a program titled "The School of Public Issues and the Future of New Jersey".

Congratulations also, to twins *Natasha* and *Ninoshka Singh* who are also selected and awarded to be the Governor's Scholars from the State of Pennsylvania. They will be attending the "Information Science and Technology" Governor's School, at Penn State University and Drexel University, respectively, for a five week program.

This statewide program identifies the finest students in New Jersey and Pennsylvania and sponsors them for an intensive, four to five weeks long, all-expense-paid scholarship, for university study in their field of choice. An independent reviewer and the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Governor's Schools and the committees identifies a select number of students from a starting field of 285-350, narrows the number of candidates down to 50 and then finally to the handful of winners.

In addition to the above, *Natasha and Ninoshka Singh* were also, nominated by the Eastern PA Youth Soccer Association as 2004 Union League of Philadelphia, Good Citizenship Award recipients from an applicant pool of hundreds of high school juniors. This award exemplifies good citizenship, academics, sports, leadership, and community service.

Congratulations times two, **Cyrus Kanga, Natasha and Ninoshka Singh**
Keep up the good work!!!



Natak-We are planning to host a Natak by the ZAPANJ membership. If you are interested in participating in this event in any capacity as an actor/ actress, crew member, behind the scene help, please contact *Behnaz Toorkey* –856-751-0633 or *Aban Singh* at 610-539-9229. Everyone is welcomed to join and have fun!!!



Karl Sukhia has been writing and recording music for the past two years. His website is bambooshoots.com. Recently the BBC World Service interviewed him. A DJ named *Adil Ray* plays his music. In an effort to promote Karl's music please email, Adil Ray at adil@bbc.co.uk and request him to play any music by the group Bamboo Shoots. Please spread this word around and assist in encouraging one of our own. Pass this message on to your friends and families.



Our Youngest member:

Congrats to *Pareez* and *Michael Golub* on birth of their son, *Samuel Kelsan Golub*, December 12, 2003. The proud grandparents are *Fatima* and *Erach Patel*.



Newly Weds: *Fatima* and *Erach Patel* are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter *Roxanne*, to *Dan Shepelavy* on March 27, 2004. They will reside in Philadelphia.

Advertise In ZAPANJ: Expand your market by advertising in the ZAPANJ newsletters and help us defray the cost of printing and mailing of the newsletters. Our newsletters cover the area of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. We also, send our newsletters to all other associations in US and Canada as well as post them on the web. For details on subscriptions contact *Aban Singh* 610-539-9229.

**Have safe
and cool
summer!!**

SMILE: (Submitted by Cyrus Toorkey)

Only in America.....do they have drive-up ATM machines with Braille lettering.
Only in America.....do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a diet coke.
Only in America.....do banks leave both doors open and then chain the pens to the counters.
Only in America.....do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and put our useless junk in the garage.
Only in America.....do we buy hot dogs in packages of ten and buns in packages of eight.
Only in America.....do we use the word 'politics' to describe the process so well: 'Poli' in Latin meaning 'many' and 'tics' meaning 'bloodsucking creatures'.
Only in America.....do drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.

EVER WONDER ...

Why the sun lightens our hair, but darkens our skin?
Why women can't put on mascara with their mouth closed?
Why don't you ever see the headline "Psychic Wins Lottery"?
Why is "abbreviated" such a long word?
Why is it that doctors call what they do "practice"?
Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavor, and dishwashing liquid made with real lemons?
Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?
Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?
Why isn't there mouse-flavored cat food?

Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?
Why do they sterilize the needle for lethal injections?
You know that indestructible black box that is used on airplanes? Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?!
Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?
Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?
If con is the opposite of pro, is Congress the opposite of progress?
If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the terminal?

Now that you've smiled at least once, it's your turn to spread the stupidity and send this to someone you want to bring a smile to (maybe even a chuckle)...in other words, send it to everyone. We all need to smile every once in a while.

Aban Singh
Secretary-ZAPANJ, May-2004
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