



ZAPANJ

ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA AND NEW JERSEY

Newsletter January 2006

www.zapanj.org

President: Katayun K. Kapadia **Vice President:** Khorshed Vakil-Unwala

Treasurer: Adil R. Masani **Secretary:** Porus P. Cooper

Joint Secretaries: Behnaz C. Toorkey and Khushru S. Jokhi

Greetings and best wishes for the New Year. We hope 2006 will be the best year yet for all of the ZAPANJ family. There is much to look forward to.

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

- **SAT., MARCH 25** **Roj Daepadar, Mah Avan (Shahenshahi), Roj Asfandarmad, Mah Adar (Kadmi):** JAMSHEDI NAVROZ CELEBRATION and ZAPANJ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at Palace of Asia (the former Bombay Cuisine), Route 70 East, in Cherry Hill, NJ. The event begins at 6 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar, followed by the annual general meeting of ZAPANJ members at 7 and dinner at 8. There will be music and dancing and exciting prizes. Details of the dinner are listed later in this newsletter.
 - **SAT., FEB. 11:** Cultural enrichment and religion class at Mt. Zion AME Church in Devon, 390 N. Fairfield Rd. Devon, PA. Class begins with *humbandagi* at 4:30 p.m. Dinner hosts are Nivedita and Adil Masani, Benaifer and Rushad Eduljee and Khorshed and Jamshed Unwala **Please RSVP the Masanis at 610-948-5337** .The class will feature a **FOOD DRIVE FOR THE NEEDY**. Children and adults are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items (such as canned food, cereal boxes, pasta, etc) that will be donated to an area food pantry. We expect a representative of the food pantry to speak briefly to the group and accept the donated items. **For details, call Khorshed Vakil-Unwala at 610-831-0716.**
 - **SAT., MARCH 11:** Cultural enrichment and religion class at Evesham Township Community Center, Gibson House, Indian Springs Golf Course, Tuckerton Road, Marlton, NJ. As usual, *humbandagi* at 4:30 p.m. will be followed by religion and cultural classes for children and a discussion for adults. A traditional Iranian Zarthushti *haft seen* table will be organized. For details please call **Phiroza Stoneback at 215 757-4052**. Snacks and dinner to be catered. **For dinner RSVP Nergish and Noshir Karanjia at 856-983-4990**. Other hosts: Veera and Percy Karanjia and Persis and Adi Kasad.
 - **SAT., APRIL 15:** Cultural enrichment and religion class at Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church in Devon, 390 N. Fairfield Rd. Devon, PA. 4:30 p.m. Begins with *humbandagi* at 4:30 p.m. **For dinner, RSVP Aban and K.P. Singh at 610-539-9229**. Other hosts: Aban and Rayomand Unwalla and Armin and Jal Surti.
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- **SAT., MAY 13:** Cultural enrichment and religion class at Evesham Township Community Center, Gibson House, Indian Springs Golf Course, Tuckerton Road, Marlton, NJ. Begins with *humbandagi* at 4:30 p.m. **For dinner, RSVP Zarine and Fali Sidhva at 610-935-2857.** Other hosts: Roshni and Percy Kanga and Freny Ranji.

LOOKING BACK:

It was a busy and enjoyable summer for ZAPANJ members. In July, about 40 children and adults spent a fun weekend at Camp Inawendiwin, in the woods of Burlington County, New Jersey. Later that month, ZAPANJ members met for their annual picnic at Marsh Creek State Park, in Pennsylvania, and then were hosted for tea and snacks at the home of Persis and Adi Kasad, whose kind hospitality has become a cherished annual tradition. Then, on Aug. 20, members packed the Rose Garden, in Hamilton, N.J., for the Navroze and Pateti Function. The cultural enrichment and religion classes began for a new year in September with a floral and prayerful remembrance tribute to honor departed members as well as departed loved ones of members. The special event was conceived and organized by Khorshed Vakil-Unwala in hopes of making it a permanent annual feature of our life as a community.

In October, we met again, for our annual Gahambar function. The venue was new – the Lions Lake Banquet Facility, in Voorhees – but credit for making the function possible went as usual to Behroze and Jahan Kasad, who have been generous financial sponsors of the annual event, and to a small army of volunteers who cooked the delicious food. A children’s Halloween costume contest was conducted at the event, as was a blood marrow-donor match drive. The Gahambar was attended by two fellow Zarathushtis who have directly benefited from bone-marrow transplant therapy.

In November, we boarded a bus to visit the New York Darbe Meher, where ZAPANJ members mingled with members of the Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York, where they renewed friendships or struck up new ones, ate together and prayed together. The group heard a moving rendition of the Atash Niyesh led by Ervad Noshir Karanjia of ZAPANJ and Ervad Pervez Patel of ZAGNY. The two-hour bus ride each way itself helped foster an even greater sense of community and camaraderie among members, with even the driver herself contributing some unexpected hilarity! (Please give us your ideas for future such trips.) ZAPANJ expressed its thanks to its hosts by presenting a large plaque to ZAGNY. Thanks go to Behnaz Toorkey for organizing the event so well.

The same month saw a visit by Michael Stausberg, a professor of religious studies in Norway. Prof. Stausberg has a special interest in Zarathushti rituals and culture. He has traveled to India and Iran, meeting Zarathushtis there, and was in Philadelphia to attend a convention. He spoke to a small group of ZAPANJ members, who could be reached at the short notice the professor provided, at a meeting hosted at Hutokhshi and Porus Cooper’s home. He was very knowledgeable and responded to questions with great insight. The ZAPANJ board regrets a larger group could not be reached in time for the event. But Prof. Stausberg travels to North America often and we hope he will soon be back in this area.

Finally, in December, Tina Mehta and Ava Lala traveled to the World Zoroastrian Youth Congress in Miami, Florida. In appreciation of their effort to represent ZAPANJ at this prestigious and popular youth event, the ZAPANJ board has awarded each of them a \$250 subsidy. They will report back on the proceedings at a future gathering of ZAPANJ.

ZAPANJ also lent its support to an event held in Canada to felicitate Dr. Jehan Bagli, a longtime community activist and a former active member of ZAPANJ.

The last few months also have seen events both joyful and sad that involved individual members:

ZAPANJ wishes a speedy recovery

To longtime member Khorshed Mistry. Members dedicated the *humbandagi* at the January cultural and religion classes to pray for her swift recovery from her illness. We all will continue to pull for her.

ZAPANJ heartily celebrates

BIRTHS:

Two grandchildren to Fatima and Erach Patel – grandson Sam Michael, to their daughter, Pareez, and son-in-law Michael Golub; and granddaughter Daria Pareez Shepelavy, to their daughter, Roxanne, and son-in-law Dan Shepelavy.

Two grandchildren to Jeroo and Khodi Irani – granddaughter Sanaya, to their son, Farzad, and daughter-in-law Nazneen Irani; and grandson Ajay, to their daughter, Farzin, and son-in-law Vasi Sivasegaran.

A grandson to Freny and the late Jamshed Ranji -- Logan, to their son Viraf and daughter-in-law Jennifer Ranji. Logan is brother to Jordan, 3.

WEDDINGS:

Malcolm Engineer of Marlton and Dina Maloo of Mumbai.
Sanobar Mistry of Devon and Keith McNellis of Philadelphia.
Burzis Kanga of New Orleans and Hoda Kotb of New York.
Kaizad Dinshaw of Budd Lake, N.J., and Mayuri Singh of Houston.

NAVJOTES:

Deanne Chhor, daughter of Marzban and Parwana Chhor.
Kayzad Jokhi, son of Khushru and Havovi Jokhi and older brother of Sam.

ZAPANJ joyfully welcomes

New members: Nicole Daver as well as Yasmin and Manoj Gupte. We also welcome back Cawas Desai, a stalwart member and discussion leader at our monthly cultural and religion discussions. He was injured when was struck by a car, but with Ahura Mazda's help is making a good recovery.

ZAPANJ heartily congratulates

- Sherry Bapasola, Feroze P. Karanjia, Kyra Singh, Amy Surti and Darayus Toorkey for completing their Good Life Emblem study program under the direction of Diana Darius Dadachanji. As part of the project, Sherry wrote a research paper on the accomplishments of Zarathushti women; Feroze wrote about the plight of Parsis as they cope with dwindling numbers; Kyra wrote about the significance of the differeng Gehs; Amy wrote about the consecration of the sacred fire, and Darayus wrote about the ancient Persian Achaemenid dynasty.
- Natasha and Ninoshka Singh for gaining admission to Cornell University and being awarded FEZANA scholarships. We all wish them every success.
- Cyrus Kanga for receiving a presidential scholarship from Tulane University. Cyrus (along with his uncle, Berzis Kanga) had a close brush with Hurricane Katrina. Cyrus, son of Roshni and Percy Kanga, left on the last flight out of New Orleans before the storm's fury hit the city. He was enrolled at Tulane University when the storm forced him to spend his first semester as a freshman at Drexel University. He is now back at Tulane. We wish him good luck.

(Cyrus and other members will be pleased to know that ZAPANJ contributed \$1,766 toward Katrina relief efforts.)

ZAPANJ deeply mourns

The passing

Of Adi Unwalla and Nergish Karanjia's brother, Jamshed Unwalla, 83, in Mumbai.

Of Taruna Tehsildar's mother, Roshan Jal Daruwalla, 92, in Canada.

Of Meher Mistry's father, Byram Gandavia, 92, in California.

ZAPANJ reminds members who pledged at the last annual general meeting to sponsor the monthly religion and cultural class to please send in their checks for \$200 to Adil Masani. Many thanks to those who already have done so,

ZAPANJ's board appeals to members to consider a request from Meenaish and Nozer Damania to contribute financially to a nationwide effort they are part of to expedite the currently heavily backlogged immigration process for lawful applicants like themselves. "Due to this uncertainty, we cannot take any major decisions," they write. Details can be found at <http://www.immigrationvoice.org>. Or please call the Damanias at 215-428-9386.

Porus N. Dadabhoy is seeking medical professionals among our members to join a newly created Zoroastrian Medical Network for the Philadelphia and New Jersey Area. Those interested may contact Porus at porusdad@yahoo.com

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE:

- Please renew your annual membership. Mail your check, made out to ZAPANJ, to Adil Masani at 66 Malsby Road, Royersford, PA 19468. Life members also need to pay \$2 per family toward FEZANA. New members are most welcome. Membership rates are as follows:
Life membership: \$300 plus \$2 per family per year FEZANA dues.
Family membership (Parents and kids under 18) : \$35 plus \$2 per family per year FEZANA dues.
Single Membership: \$20 plus \$1per year FEZANA dues.
Student Membership: \$10 plus \$1 per year FEZANA dues.
- Contact Khushru Jokhi at kjokhi@yahoo.com to receive a CD of the latest ZAPANJ directory. Contact him also to update your contact information.
- Please e-mail Porus P. Cooper at poruscooper@hotmail.com with news and photos of any events within your family or friends circle, whether local or far away, that might merit inclusion in the ZAPANJ newsletter. ZAPANJ is an extended family and every birth or death, every graduation, Navjote, marriage, job promotion and recognition, affects us all.
- Please inform Adil Masani at namasani@comcast.net of any donations you make to ZAPANJ through the United Way. It is vital to do that so we can acknowledge your donations and make sure ZAPANJ is affiliated with the United Way jurisdiction you use.
- Please email Dolly Dastoor, editor of FEZANA Journal, to participate in a reader survey the Journal is conducting. The deadline to complete the survey is Feb. 15. Dolly is at dollydastoor@sympatico.ca

CELEBRATE JAMSHEDI NAVROZE

AT

The Palace of Asia

(former Bombay Cuisine at Howard Johnson)

(856) 317-1900 or (856) 773-1200

2389 Route 70 East, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

SATURDAY, March 25, 2006, 6 – 11 PM



Enjoy food, fun, music and dance with family and friends!!

Please fill out and return the registration form below with your check by MARCH 15TH!!

FROM NORTH: New Jersey Turnpike South to Exit 4. Exit ramp merges onto Route 73 North. Stay briefly on Route 73 North and then exit to Route 295 South. Take Route 295 South to exit 34B (Cherry Hill). Exit ramp merges onto Route 70 West. Take Route 70 West until you see Howard Johnson on your left. Make a U Turn, taking the U Turn exit indicated at this point.

FROM DELAWARE AND POINTS SOUTH: Take Route 295 North to Exit 34 B (Cherry Hill). Follow rest of the directions above.

FROM CENTER CITY PHILADELPHIA: Take Ben Franklin Bridge to New Jersey. Follow signs to Route 70 East and stay on Route 70 East until reaching Howard Johnson on your right.

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PLEASE CHECK www.ZAPANJ.org FOR UPDATES. SAVE THIS NEWSLETTER!!!!

Porus P. Cooper
Secretary-ZAPANJ
114 Randle Drive
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

NAVROZE DINNER REGISTRATION FORM (pls send by March 15th)
(Mail this form and your checks to **Adil Masani at 66 Malsby Road, Royersford, PA 19468**)

Name:

Address:

of members: _____

of non-members:

Total amount on enclosed check:

\$ _____

_____	Adult Members	@ \$30 per person
_____	Student Members	@ \$10 per person
_____	Children (3-12 years)	@ FREE
_____	Children (13-18 years)	@ \$10 per person
_____	**Kids meal (Under 12)	@ FREE
_____	Non-Members	@ \$40 per person

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***Strictly* for kids 12 years old and under who opt for Kids Meal – macaroni & cheese and chicken nuggets for dinner, chips for appetizer and ice cream for dessert. No food will be allowed from the buffet table. Call *Adil Masani* in advance at 610-948-5337 to pick this menu.. **Adult member checks postmarked March 15 or after must be for \$35 each.**



Zarathushti Cultural Center

of Delaware Valley Inc

www.zacuce.com
Issue 2, Jan 2006

Mission: It is our vision to preserve Zarathushti heritage and faith for future and present generations through religious, cultural and educational activities. In order to foster these activities it is our mission to build the Zarathushti cultural center that will bring the community together in a common place, giving us a sense of belonging and help us leave a legacy for the future.

ZACUCE Board of Trustees

Jehan Kasad - President
Khursheed Bapasola - Treasurer
Diana Dadachanji – Secretary

Noshir Karanjia - Vice President
Arnavaz Sukhia – Jt. Treasurer
Freny Ranji Jt. Secretary

Dear Friends,

Beginning with the New Year 2006, we would like to wish one and all a safe healthy and happy 2006. With this we are grateful for many things that have happened to ZACUCE since our last newsletter.

We have many thanks to list, beginning with our dear Dara Sinor, our trustee, who is relocating to another area very soon. We will miss his tremendous help, support, and enthusiasm, which he provided to ZACUCE over these past years. Dara worked with all the financials as a treasurer and looked around most devotedly for any property old/new that he thought might be suitable for ZACUCE. He will be missed! Au Revoir Dara, and we all wish you the best.

DID YOU HEAR?? DID YOU HEAR ?? DID YOU HEAR ABOUT OUR MOST EXCITING EVENT FOR THE YEAR 2006!

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE THE PROUD OWNER OF A BRAND NEW MERCEDES?? OR WIN MUCH MORE, by Participating in our Raffle! ...ONLY 999 TICKETS TO BE SOLD AT \$100 EACH!

This is our major fund raiser for the year 2005 - 2006. The raffle tickets can be bought through Erach Patel, Ava Lala, Freny Ranji, Jehan Kasad, and Noshir Karanjia, or any Zacuce trustee. A limited number of tickets will be sold so your chances of winning are high. We encourage each family to purchase at least two to three tickets. Drawing will be on October 28, 2006. Please share this news with your family, friends, colleagues and workers and make every effort to generously buy and sell the tickets. For further details, rules and regulations applicable go to [www. ZACUCE.com](http://www.ZACUCE.com)

The Zarathushti Cultural Center of Delaware Valley presents:

SUPER RAFFLE

GRAND PRIZE:

Mercedes Benz C280 4Matic Luxury Sedan

2nd Prize: 2 Airline Tickets to Europe or India
3rd Prize: 42 inch Plasma TV
4th Prize: 2 Cruise Tickets worth \$1,500
5th Prize: Persian Carpet
6th Prize: \$500 Cash Gift Certificate
7th-15th Prizes: \$100 Cash Gift Certificate



ONLY 999 TICKETS TO BE SOLD AT \$100 EACH!

Drawing: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2006

ENTER TODAY TO WIN!!

Net proceeds will be used to build a cultural center for the
Zoroastrian Association of Pennsylvania, New Jersey & Delaware.

Must be 18 years or older to participate. Void where prohibited by law. Winners responsible for all state, local and federal taxes, licensing, registration, title, license plate, luxury, income or special taxes, shipping and all other fees which may apply.
For official raffle rules, please visit www.zacuce.com.

PLAY TO WIN, GET YOUR MONEY IN!

To purchase a ticket, please detach and mail in this form. Make checks payable to: ZACUCE. We will then send you your raffle ticket(s); each will have a unique ticket number.

Send this form with your

Name _____

Address _____

Number of Tickets: _____

Phone No.: _____

and payment to:

Eruch Patel

1196 MacPherson Dr. West Chester PA 19380 610-719-8180

We thank all those who pledged donations and have fulfilled their pledge amount or are in the process of doing so. A list of all donors, mentioned in our first newsletter, can also be found on the website.

Listed below are donations /pledges received after May 30 2005.

Thanking the following:

For donations received:

- *Jehan and Behroz Kasad* - stocks valued at \$4,140.00
- Mr & Mrs. *Neville Arjani*- \$ 1,000.
- *Rustam and Sheroo Bhathena* - \$ 1,000.
- *Kersi and Katayun Kapadia* - \$ 1,001.00
- *Freny Ranji*- \$ 1,000
- *Porus and Hutokshi Cooper* - \$500
- *Diana Dadachaji* collected \$1,000 by selling Zarathushti books, Iranian artifacts, carpets and \$1500.00 collected by selling a Gara aquired from Persis Bansal.
- *Veera and Percy Karanjia* – *Veera and Percy Karanjia* donate \$25 bimonthly totalling \$600 annually which will be matched by their company
- *Noshir Karanjia and Minocher Dadachanji* - \$ 251; monies received for performing religious ceremonies
- *Tehmtan Tehsildar*- \$ 171. Tehmtan provides handyman services to any one interested
- *Khorshed Unwalla*-\$ 52.50 for selling handmade kurtas
- *Natasha, Ninoshka and Kyra Singh* -\$ 51- baby sitting money
- *Phiroza Stoneback* – donates all postage money for T-shirts being sold to raise funds for ZACUCE. To date she has collected \$ 450.
- *Sherry and Sam Bapasola* -\$ 21
- All postage expenses for ZACUCE were borne by *Dara Sinor* – our former treasurer.

For Fundraising :

- *Freny Ranji* - \$1,032.00 raised by donations received for “ Muktdad” prayers
- *Sherry and Sam Bapasola*- \$ 365.00 by organizing a silent auction and raffle
- *Aban Singh* with *Kyra Singh* together with Zoroastrian Youth group, led by *Behnaaz Toorkey*, organized a Zoroastrian stall at the Methacton School District International Day. Our youth provided articles for the stall. Our adults *Freny Ranji, Zarine* and *Fali Sidwa* and *Arnavaz Sukhia* and the children sold Parsee food and raised \$125.00, besides raising awareness about our religion.

Many **thanks** to

Nilufer Shroff for providing her expertise by preparing the ZACUCE monthly financial statements.

Nozer Damania for maintaining the ZACUCE web site.

Aban Singh for writing the newsletter

Remembrance and Tribute Fund-started by *Jeroo* and *Fram Dalal*, where you remember a loved one or honor a special occasion like Graduation, Wedding Anniversary, Get Well wishes, Congratulations. Your donation will be acknowledged by sending an appropriate card to any person you designate. (without mentioning the amount). Currently we have received donations for the names of the following individuals.

1. *Karanjia Family*- in memory of: Khorshed Karanjia, Sam Karanjia, Dhun Panthaki, Noshir Mistry, Lily Sinor, Jamshed Ranji, Nolly Unwalla, Dolly Kanga, Kersi Mewawalla, Rohinton Balsara, and Pesi Nalawala.
 2. *Dara Sinor*- in memory of Lily Dara Sinor, and Farah Palkhiwala
 3. *Jeroo and Fram Dalal*-in memory of Behram Gandevia, Roshan Daruwalla, and Jamshed Ranji Jehangir Unwalla.

4. *Behroze and Jehan Kasad* donated in memory of *Farah Palkhiwala*
 5. *Dara Sinor* donated in memory of Rohinton Balsara ,Darius Dadachanji Dolly Kanga, Khorshed Karanjia Sam Karanjia, Kersi Mewawala Noshir Mistry, Jamshed Ranji, Savak Sinor

REMEMBRANCE AND TRIBUTE FORM:

This form is also available on Zacuce.com

Enclosed is gift of \$ _____ Date: _____

In Memory of _____

Name

In Honor of: _____ Occasion _____

Name

Birthday/Anniversary

Please notify _____

Name

Address

Gift from _____

Name

Address

Please check the box if you want your contribution to be considered towards your pledge.

Makes checks payable to ZACUCE and forward your contributions to:

Jeroo F. Dalal 7619 Mountain Avenue Elkins Park PA 19027-2613 PH: 215-635-3648

email:jeroofram@verizon.net

PLEDGE FORM

Please, please **open your heart** and make your pledge today, even if you have not donated before. We need to make this successful and build our ZACUCE center. *Donations can be given in any form you please i.e. cash, check, charge or bill on going basis as below or via stocks and securities etc.* Please make your donations payable to The Zarathushti Cultural Center.

DONOR'S NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ E-MAIL: _____

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

1. I will pay now \$ _____ Please enclose check
2. I will pay monthly \$ _____ For three years
3. I will pay annually \$ _____ For three years
4. Securities/Stocks options Please contact *Jehan Kasad* at 609-799-1954

I wish my name to remain anonymous

No-----

Yes-----

SIGNATURE: _____

NOTE: All donations will qualify for **TAX** deduction. Send checks to: *Meher Mistry*, 1030 Lancaster Ave, Apt 103, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010.Tel: 610 581-7703 or email meherml@yahoo.com

Newsletter formatted by Aban Singh.