



# ZAPANJ



**ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA AND NEW JERSEY**

## **Newsletter January 2013**

**President:** Freny Ranji  
**Vice President:** Fali F. Sidhva  
**Treasurer:** Shireen Jahanian  
**Secretary:** Shahrukh Tarapore  
**Joint Secretary:** Arnavaz (Anoo) D. Sukhia

The Board would like to wish the entire ZAPANJ community a very Happy Healthy and Prosperous New Year !

### **SAVE THE DATES**

**March 23rd 2013**, 6:00 PM at the Palace of Asia , Cherry Hill – Navroz Function, Annual General Meeting and ZAPANJ Elections. If there is anything you would like us to do at this function or have on the menu please e-mail the Board (no calls please).

**June 29th 2013** - Annual picnic at Marsh Creek. Details to follow.

### **NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS–ZAPANJ BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

It's time again for elections for the next two-year term, 2013-2015. As per our association's constitution and by-laws, a member may serve on the Board for no more than four consecutive years, while at least four years must elapse before a past board member can seek election to the board again.

This means the positions of Vice-President and Joint-Secretary will become vacant in March 2013.

These positions must be filled at the upcoming AGM meeting. In this regard, we urge every member of the association in good standing to consider joining the board and serving the community.

If you are interested in joining the board, please send in a nomination form to Joint Secretary Arnavaz Sukhia. The form must be postmarked no later than **March 9, 2013**. You can either nominate yourself or nominate someone else. The printable nomination form is attached.

Also, attached is a proxy form should you wish to authorize someone else to vote on your behalf. The Proxy form must be postmarked by **March 9, 2013**. If you have questions, feel free to contact any of the Board members.

## RELIGION CLASSES- SNOW EMERGENCY UPDATE

Once again we would like to remind all members who attend the religion class that in the event of bad weather, please check your email to get the latest ZAPANJ update on whether classes will be held. If there is more than 4" of snow on the ground, ZAPANJ will cancel the religion classes. If your child is in a class, you may contact their teacher directly as well.

**The classes will be re-scheduled the following Saturday at the home of one of our ZAPANJ members-Sharukh and Riah Sidhwa or Cyrus and Behnaz Toorkey.**

### **Religion Class Teachers- Contact Information:**

Marazban Sarkari		Anoo Sukhia	
PHONE (Home)	610- 692-3672	PHONE (Home)	856-751-7233
PHONE ( Cell)	720- 935 2457	PHONE (Cell)	609-870-9138
Freny Ranji		Cyrus Toorkey	
PHONE (Home)	856-854-2251	PHONE (Home)	856-751-0633
PHONE (Cell)	610-322-3558	PHONE (Cell)	609-320-9562

## MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2013

Only members in good standing as of the date of the upcoming annual general meeting are eligible to vote for the new board of trustees. If you haven't already, please renew your membership now for the 2013 calendar year. **If you are not a member of ZAPANJ yet, we urge you to become one.**

The membership form is attached for your convenience. Please mail your check to Shireen Jahanian, payable to ZAPANJ. Please note that FEZANA dues (\$2 per family per year) need to be paid even if you are a Life Member and do not owe ZAPANJ annual dues.

Families: \$35 (ZAPANJ MEMBERSHIP) +\$2 (FEZANA DUES)

Single Membership: \$20 (ZAPANJ MEMBERSHIP) + \$1 (FEZANA DUES)

Student: \$10 (ZAPANJ MEMBERSHIP) + \$1 (FEZANA DUES)

Please remember to renew or sign up for a ZAPANJ membership. You can mail your dues, together with the attached form to Shireen Jahanian, 5 Duck Pond Ct, Voorhees, NJ 08043.

## RELIGION CLASSES

Attached are photographs taken by our member Parvez Daruwala at the **December 8, 2012 ZAPANJ Class**

[View Album](#)

[Play slideshow](#)

In December, nine carloads of parents and children drove to Cherry Hill to view the holiday lights at Deer Run Drive. Thank You to Anoo and Diniar Sukhia who organized this . It was truly an unbelievable sight !

Thank you to our host families who have been cooking delicious meals for the class attendees and to our teachers, Cawas Desai, Adi Unwalla, Marzban Sarkari, Cyrus Toorkey, Freny Ranji, Arnavaz Sukhia and Teresa Nakra for their dedication.

## PARK CLEANUP

Enthusiastic Zapanj members gathered on Saturday October 27 2012 to clean up the Penny Packer Park in Cherry Hill, NJ - for which Zapanj received \$ 500!

Special thanks to Dinyar Ranji, (for following up, corresponding many times and dealing with the township and Camden County Division of Environment Affairs) without whom this would not have been possible, to Banoo Karanjia and Anoo Sukhia for organizing the event, to Daulat Mewawala for collecting and returning the tools, to Cyrus and Samir Mahrwaha, Jordon and Logan Ranji for the write-ups submitted to the township, and to all the volunteers who came for the clean up . The clean-up was followed by a picnic with food ranging from bhel to kavabs !!!



## CRADLES TO CRAYONS

Rohan Masani , our young member is holding a collection drive for children's everyday essentials, by participating in the Cradles To Crayons program. The mission of this program is to provide children up to the age of 12 , living in homeless or low income situations, with the essential items they need to thrive- at home, at school and at play. A list of essentials is listed in the flyer attached.

Rohan will be collecting your donations at the next religion class on Saturday February 9<sup>th</sup> . Please donate generously! Poverty among children is the highest it has been for 50 years.

## THANK YOU ZAPANJ MEMBERS!

Our sincere thanks to all our community members who over a period of three months collected nonperishable food items for the South Jersey Food Bank, and donated blankets and sandwiches for the homeless in Philadelphia. Each winter, for over 20 years Rupina and P. K. Prabhakar of Marlton, have been collecting and distributing blankets, winter coats and sandwiches to the homeless. For them this is truly a labor of love and we hope this generous gesture is

adopted by the Zapanj community every year.

### CONGRATULATIONS !

Nozer and Meenaish Damania are the proud parents of a bonny baby boy Zaosh, who was born on Sept 4, 2012.

### SAD NEWS

Our heartfelt condolences go out to Behroz and Jehan Kasad and their family upon the sad demise of Behroz's mother Piroja Magol, age 101 years, who died on January 20<sup>th</sup> in Mumbai.

### FEZANA NEWS :

**EAT, LIVE, PRAY** The Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America (FEZANA) celebrated its silver jubilee in 2012. To mark the occasion, FEZANA produced a special publication "Eat, Live, Pray: A celebration of Zarathushti culture and cuisine" for free distribution. Please share the publication with your family and friends. It is available for download on the FEZANA website

<http://www.fezana.org/files/publications/books/Cookbook/SLVJUBcookbook.pdf>

Arnavaz Chubb, Benafsha and Sarosh Khariwala, and Farishta Murzban Dinshaw, the four "cooks" who put the publication together, write in the introduction, "Whether we live to eat or eat to live, food and all that goes with it, from the preparation to consumption, is an integral part of our culture and way of life as Zarathushtis. From lavish celebratory feasts to solemn liturgical rituals, food and the enjoyment of Ahura Mazda's bounty surely defines the Zarathushti ethos more than anything else. Zarathushti philosophy and theology may be cogitated in ivory towers, but it is in the family kitchen that a big part of our culture and traditions have been kept alive."

The book has 72 recipes, which is just a sampling of Parsi and Persian dishes. Foodies from Australia, Britain, Canada, India, Iran, Pakistan and the United States of America have contributed the recipes. The recipes are complemented by articles that give a cultural context to our cuisine.

The contents have been divided into three sections: *EAT* traces the various social and geopolitical influences on Zarathushti cuisine over a span of three thousand years; *LIVE* describes some of the celebratory occasions in our lives and the accompanying foods that make them special; and *PRAY* contains information about our rituals and holy days.

**Young Professionals Norouz Retreat** March 1- March 3, 2013, New York City

The following message was received through FEZANA.

Zoroastrian Youth of North America (ZYNA) will be kicking off the NEW YEAR 2013! Join us, in the BIG APPLE, for a celebration filled with festivities, friendship and fellowship.

This will be a networking social retreat geared towards established professionals (ages 25-45) who want to network. The new generation of Zoroastrians will be able to strengthen friendships and connect with like-minded professionals that live and work by the core beliefs of our religion.

Mingle and surround yourself with energetic, ambitious people who are contributing to society through their professional endeavors. ZYNA is on a mission to give professionals the opportunity to connect, share ideas, resources, thoughts, and opportunities. Our vision is to cultivate a professional community of young Zoroastrians that is focused on building relationships and working together to learn, grow and make a difference in the world we live in.

Professionals from North America, and possibly even abroad, will come together to connect. Regardless of your professional ties, you will be surrounded by like-minded people who do not just want to fit into this world, but shape what it can be.

ZYNA is committed to establishing FEZANA's legacy by preservation through generations!

Registration by Feb 10 2013 at [www.fezana.org/zyna](http://www.fezana.org/zyna)

Space is limited so please sign up soon

### ZOROASTRIAN ARTICLES & ZOROASTRIANS IN THE NEWS:

The link below leads to some wonderful photographs taken on a trip to Iran, showing our Zoroastrian origins and

Culture: [Iran Trip](#)

### A MATTER OF GREAT PRIDE



Our very own Zapanj member, Katayun Kersi Kapadia, who has been elected the President of FEZANA, has been featured in the Parsiana Magazine, published in Mumbai, India. The article has been emailed with this newsletter, as a separate attachment. We are truly proud of Katayun! Congratulations to Katayun and her family!

### NEWS FROM ZAGNY

The following message was received from ZAGNY.

#### **2013 ZAGNY Directory / Membership Initiative**

In 2013 ZAGNY will update the directory of Zarathushtis living in the Tri-State area of NY NJ and CT. We request you to update your information by filling out the online form at the link below:

[Online Directory Form Link](#)

You do not need to be a member of ZAGNY to get listed in the directory. We request you to pass this along to your Zarathushti friends in the Tri-State area so that they can fill out the form too. At the end of the form you will have further options to

a) Become a ZAGNY member      b) Renew your membership.

All the information collected, shall remain private and confidential. This information shall NOT be shared on any online format.

You will receive a PDF copy of the directory when it is published later in the year. If you require a printed copy, you will have the option to order the same and pay the minimal charges for printing and postage.

## ZACUCE NEWS

In our last update in July, we informed you that due to flood plain restrictions on our land, ZACUCE had asked for waivers from the Mt. Laurel township, which we were told were unlikely to be granted, and therefore we were working to reduce the size of the building to meet the necessary site requirements before reapplying.

As we looked into the costs associated with satisfying the requirements, we determined that it could add an additional \$400,000 to the cost of the project. That, coupled with the fact that the total number of people we could hold in our center had decreased, made the current site less feasible. Therefore, after much deliberation, **the trustees unanimously decided to put the land for sale and begin looking at new properties**, ideally sites with an existing religious structure or with zoning that does not need to be changed.

While ZACUCE is disappointed with this setback, they continue to forge ahead. That means they are continuing to fundraise so they can be ready to act when the right place presents itself. **Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to ZACUCE**, and thank you for your continued support.



## ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA & NEW JERSEY MEMBERSHIP DUES FORM 2013

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### **2013 ZAPANJ ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES:**

Life Membership= \$300 plus \$2/family/year FEZANA dues  
Family Membership= \$35 plus \$2/family/year FEZANA dues  
Single Membership= \$20 plus \$1/individual/year FEZANA dues  
Student Membership= \$10 plus \$1/individual/year FEZANA dues

### **MEMBERSHIP DUES FORM:**

Please make a check payable to ZAPANJ and mail it along with the attached slip to:

Shireen Jehanian, 5 Duck Pond Court, Voorhees, NJ 08043

\_\_\_\_\_ cut here \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \$: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership requested: Life \_\_\_\_ Family \_\_\_\_ Single \_\_\_\_ Student \_\_\_\_



**ZAPANJ NOMINATION FORM**

To: The President, ZAPANJ

I, \_\_\_\_\_, a ZAPANJ member in good standing wish to submit my nomination or wish to nominate \_\_\_\_\_ as a candidate for election to the ZAPANJ Board of Trustees for the two-year term 2013–2015 at the Annual General Meeting on Saturday, March 23, 2013.

Please accept my nomination.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee &/or Nominator

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

..... (CUT HERE) .....

**ZAPANJ PROXY FORM**

To: The President, ZAPANJ

I, \_\_\_\_\_, a ZAPANJ member in good standing hereby appoint \_\_\_\_\_ as a Proxy with full powers of substitution to vote on my behalf for the election of the ZAPANJ Board of Trustees for the two-year term 2013–2015 at the Annual General Meeting on Saturday, March 23, 2013. This proxy revokes any proxy previously given.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

If a Proxy's name is left blank, the President's name shall be entered. If not dated, this Proxy is deemed to bear the date on which it was received.

[Mail the completed forms postmarked no later than March 9th 2013, to Joint Secretary Arnavaz Sukhia, 204 Brompton Drive, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003](#)