



ZAPANJ



ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA & NEW JERSEY

Fall 2014 Newsletter

ZAPANJ BOARD

2013-2015

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ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS...

MUKTAD PRAYERS

Muktad prayers were held for our dear departed on Friday, August 15, 2014 At 6pm at the residence of Shirin Jahanian & Ardeshir Kiamensh.

Flowers, sandalwood and candles were offered at the ceremony.

NAVROZ

The ZAPANJ Navroz function was held on August 22, 2014 at the Palace of Asia.

Almost 100 members came together to celebrate the 35th Anniversary of ZAPANJ, where games, music and delicious food was enjoyed by all. A game of BINGO made up of Zarthusti words rounded off an enjoyable evening. The victors walked away with handsome prizes.

Some of the senior members of the community were then invited to cut the 35th anniversary cake and wish the ZAPANJ community many more years of togetherness!!

At the end of the evening the dance floor was invaded by our fun loving members who enthusiastically swayed to several musical numbers.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

The ZAPANJ Board had called a Special General Meeting on August 23, 2014 at the ZAPANJ Navroz function at Palace of Asia, NJ to discuss and vote on the change in the ZAPANJ Membership dues.

After some discussion the ZAPANJ members present, voted in favor of raising the annual ZAPANJ membership fees as per the following table.

Type of Membership	New Membership Dues
Life Membership	\$1,000
Family (Husband, Wife and dependent children under 18)	\$70
Single	\$40
Student	\$20

GHAMBAR

The Annual ZAPANJ Ghambar took place on September 28, 2014 at the Palace of Asia, in the presence of almost 100 members.

The Jashan was conducted by Ervad Adi Unwalla, Ervad Noshir Karanjia, Ervad Cawas Desai & Ervad Minocher Dadachanji.

As always, the function was a success due to the efforts of our members. We thank Adi Unwalla & Freny Ranji for the fruits and flowers. Adi & Persis Kasad assisted with the chowk. We would also like to thank Veera & Percy Karanjia, Havovi and Khushru Jokhi & Diana Dadachanji for the delicious malido.

RELIGION CLASS RECAP

Our appreciation for all the efforts made by the religious class teachers, Anoo Sukhia, Freny Ranji, Marazban Sarkari, Cyrus Toorkey, Adi Unwalla, Cawas Desai, Noshir Karanjia, who help us and our children learn about our culture and traditions.

On this note, we would like to remind our members that these teachers spend a lot of their valuable time to prepare lessons for our children in a way that engages them and fosters a sense of pride in them about our religion, culture and traditions. It is certainly very unfair if their efforts go in vain due to background sounds and talking while they are imparting this knowledge. **Please remember to be respectful and remain quiet in the main hall while the childrens' class is in session**

It has also been brought to our notice that several children have playing unattended downstairs in the basement and causing damage to the property. Please be aware that if we are not respectful of this property and do not use it correctly, then we may be liable to pay fines for the damage done to the property or worse **we may lose the privilege to use it in the future.**

SEPTEMBER PRAYER CLASS

We started the September religion class by welcoming our members back to the monthly classes.

The Remembrance Day ceremony was started by prayers for the departed souls. Mithra Sarkari and Yezad Nakra assisted the families who had brought in the photos of their dear departed ones and lit tea light candles and offered prayers.

Gift cards were also handed out to all our young members, Ryaan Gowadia, Aiden Gowadia, Sanaya Irani & Rayan Irani, who had recently been initiated into the Zoroastrian faith.

We would like to thank the hosts for the evening Nazneen & Farzad Irani, for all the delicacies the attendees enjoyed that evening

OCTOBER PRAYER CLASS

The October prayer class was hosted by Freny Ranji, Mahrukh & Neville Kermani, Roshni & Percy Kanga and Hutoxi & Porus Cooper. Thank you for all your efforts!

GIVING THANKS....

Most of us have a lot to be thankful for! So this holiday season lets spread our good fortune to those less fortunate than us!!

Freny Ranji and Nergish Karanjia have been collecting non - perishable thanksgiving-time food items like tins of cranberry jelly, stuffing etc for a food pantry in their area since the past 8 years.

All are invited to bring such items at the next prayer class on Nov 8, 2014 and hand these over to Freny Ranji & Nergish Karanjia

COMMUNITY NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTH

LUKE NEVILLE BHARUCHA, a boy to Jaclyn and Neville Bharucha, brother to James, Grandson to Roshan and Jimmy Bharucha was born on October 5, 2014 in Bryn Mawr, PA.

Our blessings to the little one and congratulation to the entire family on this joyous occasion!

COMMUNITY SERVICE



Aliza with all of her art ready for the exhibition

During this past summer, one of our young members, Aliza Eduljee, worked on a project to raise money for Faithful Friends, a no kill animal shelter in Wilmington, Delaware.

She used her summer vacation to make various pieces of art and craft, and then held an exhibition over the Labor Day weekend at her house to sell her 'hand-made' art. Her arts and crafts comprised of oil pastel canvases, painted pottery, pillows, purses and coin pouches.

100% of all proceeds went to Faithful Friends.

She delivered a check in the amount of \$200 to the Development Director of Faithful Friends.

Well done, Aliza!



Aliza donating a check for \$200 to the Director of Faithful Friends

RED CROSS WALK

A small but enthusiastic group of ZAPANJ members participated in the annual Red Cross Walk & Run on September 20, 2014 at the Philadelphia Zoo.

Once again Darayus Kermani stepped up to coordinate this event and the registration responsibilities. Thank you Darayus for a good job well done!!

ZOROASTRIAN RETURN TO ROOTS

Announcing the Track B Tour – March 2015

Zoroastrian Return to Roots (RTR) is a youth-led initiative that aims to reconnect Zoroastrian youth in the diaspora with their Indian and Iranian origins. Applications for the next RTR trip from March 10th-22nd, 2015 are now open. Roots Fellows will visit historic and cultural Zoroastrian sites in Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, and Gujarat with world-renowned experts and local guides explaining the cultural, religious and economic significance of the sites being visited.

Participants will gain a deeper understanding of Zoroastrianism, a sense of community and identity, an expanded network of motivated and like-minded Zoroastrians, and a desire to contribute and give back to our community. This program is an essential step to maintaining our Zoroastrian values, ideas, and traditions for future generations.

The Roots program has been generously sponsored by donors from our global community, including ZAPANJ. If you are interested in supporting us or in becoming a Fellow on the next trip, please www.zororoots.org Please feel free to contact Dinsha Mistree at dmistree@gmail.com for more information about the trip.

ZAGNY NEWS

ZAGNY AT NARENDRA MODI MEGA EVENT IN MADISON SQUARE GARDEN

Madison Square Garden; the legendary venue that has seen the likes of Frazier v/s Ali; Marilyn Monroe and Frank Sinatra; was to witness the first public speech by the Prime Minister of India to the citizens and diaspora of the country he officiates over.

60 ZAGNY members and friends gathered at the venue where the energy in the stadium was electric and there was a fantastic sense of pride both for India, which the diaspora calls home and for the United States, where it's possible to hold such events in such pomp and pageantry.

Dressed in Garas and Daglis, the Parsis of New York did the community proud. Many in the crowd stopped and recognised the Dagli clad men as Parsis and were so happy to see us participating in this event.

For more information and pictures, visit www.zagny.org

FEZANA BULLETINS:

August Bulletin: http://fezana.org/wp-content/uploads/FEZANA%20Bulletin_2014_08.pdf

September Bulletin: http://fezana.org/wp-content/uploads/FEZANA_Bulletin_2014_09.pdf

October Bulletin: http://fezana.org/wp-content/uploads/FEZANA_Bulletin_2014_10.pdf

2015 PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS – SALT LAKE – OCTOBER 2015 CALL FOR PROGRAMS

The Parliament of the World's Religions invites proposals for programs for presentations at the 2015 Parliament of the World's Religions in Salt Lake City, Utah, October 15-19. Thousands of people submit program proposals for the Parliament and a team of interfaith and subject experts select about 10% of those proposals to be a part of the Parliament programming.

Program types may include any of the following:

- lecture,
- academic paper,
- seminar,
- panel discussion,
- religious or spiritual observance,
- workshop,
- training session, or
- artistic performance

Regular programs will be 90 minutes in length, although other durations are possible. Symposia (1-3 day series of programs on a particular topic) may also be considered.

Timeline

October 1, 2014	Call for Programs and beginning of ongoing review
January 15, 2015	Program proposal submission deadline
April 1, 2015	Final confirmation of program acceptance
October 15-19, 2015	The 2015 Parliament of the World's Religions

For more information click on the following link

<http://www.parliamentofreligions.org/index.cfm?n=35&sn=3>

Important Note: Proposals may be submitted only at [rfp.parliamentofreligions.org](http://www.parliamentofreligions.org). No fax, email or paper submissions will be accepted.

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS AT THE UNITED NATIONS

The FEZANA UN-NGO Committee is looking for participants to attend the 59th Commission on the Status of Women Conference at the UN Headquarters in New York from March 9-20, 2015.

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This year's theme is, " The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action."

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw59-2015>

Individuals interested in attending the conference, are requested to send their resume and letter of intent by Nov. 30th, 2014. Please send the e-mail to both the following individuals:

Behram Pastakia (bpastakia@aol.com)

Afreed Mistry (afreed.mistry@gmail.com)

While FEZANA, as an NGO in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council [ECOSOC] and the Department of Public Information (DPI), will facilitate registration to the CSW Conference, the selected participants are expected to make their own financial arrangements regarding visas, tickets, accommodation, food, and transportation in the city.

Details about the vision, mission and activities of the United Nations can be accessed at www.un.org

THE XVII NORTH AMERICAN ZOROASTRIAN CONGRESS

NAZC ADVERTISING / EXHIBIT PROGRAM

Giving opens the way for receiving. -Florence Scovel Shinn

The Congress provides a unique opportunity for businesses to showcase their brands to a targeted audience of affluent, educated and influential consumers, many of whom fall in that key age demographic of 18-55 years of age, of which 52% are expected to be women. A business has three ways of conveying its message: the Congress Souvenir Program, the Congress Website and Signage or Stalls at the Congress.

<http://www.nazc2014.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/NAZC2014-Advertising-Sales.pdf>

GOOD TO KNOW....

THE FALL 2014 EDITION OF USHAO IS ATTACHED WITH ARTICLES

Compiled by Farishta Dinshaw

Shared by Anoo Sukhia

[..\e-Ushao - Fall 2014.pdf](#)

AN AD FOR UDVADA...NARRATED BY AMITABH BACHHAN

Shared by Anoo Sukhia

[..\Ad for Udvada.mp4](#)

MENOG-I KHRAD ("THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM")

Shared by Hutokshi Cooper

CHAPTER 1.

Through the name and power and assistance of the creator Ohrmazd, the archangels who are good rulers and good performers, and all the angels of the spiritual and the angels of the worldly existences, by a happy dispensation (dahishn) and well-omened we write the *Opinions of the Spirit of Wisdom* through the will of the sacred beings.

1. In the name and for the propitiation of the all-benefiting creator Ohrmazd, (2) of all the angels of the spiritual and worldly creations, (3) and of the learning of learnings, the Mazda-worshipping religion, (4) forth from which this, which is such a source of wisdom, is a selector. 5. Through the glory and will of the creator Ohrmazd who is promoting the prosperity of the two existences -- (6) and of all the greatly powerful angels, (7) and through the completely calm repose of the sacred beings, the princely, purpose-fulfilling sages, (8) presentations of various novelties for the appropriation of wisdom, (9) through largely acquiring reasoning thought, are most wholesome for the body and soul in the two existences.

10. As in the pure marvel of marvels, the unquestionable and well-betokened good religion of the Mazda-worshippers, by the words of the creator. Ohrmazd, and Zartosht the Spitaman, it is in many places decided, (11) that he, who is the all-good creator, created these creatures through wisdom, (12) and his maintenance of the invisible revolutions is through wisdom; (13) and the imperishable and undisturbed state, in that which is immortality for ever and everlasting, he reserves for himself by means of the most deliberative means of wisdom. 14. For the same reason it is declared, (15) that there was a sage who said, (16) that 'if this be known, that the religion of the sacred beings (yazdan) is truth, and its law is virtue, and it is desirous of welfare and compassionate as regards the creatures, (17) wherefore are there mostly many sects, many beliefs, and many original evolutions of mankind? 18. And, especially, that which is a sect, law, and belief, causing harm to the property (khel) of the sacred beings, and is not good? 19, 20. And this, too,

one has to consider, that, in border to become a chooser in this matter, trouble to be undergone; (21) and it is necessary to become acquainted with this matter, (22) because, in the end, the body is mingled with the dust, and reliance is on the soul. 23. And every one is to undergo trouble for the soul, (24) and is to become acquainted with duty and good works; (25) because that good work which a man does unwittingly is little of a good work, (26) and that sin which a man commits unwittingly amounts to a sin in its origin. 27. And it is declared by the *Avesta* (28) thus: "Nothing was taken by him by whom the soul was not! taken (29) hitherto, and he takes nothing who does not take the soul (30) henceforward likewise; (31) because the spiritual and worldly existences are such-like as two strongholds, (32) one it is declared certain that they shall capture, and one it is not possible to capture."

For the full article, please refer to the link

www.avesta.org/mp/mx.html

UPDATES FROM MANECK LAW, P.C

Our firm is dedicated to providing the highest quality litigation services to our clients. We specialize in the representation of individuals injured physically by the wrongdoing of others, including claims arising from automobile and trucking accidents, premises liability/slip and fall, defective products, and work injuries.

Maneck Law, P.C. is dedicated to providing the high quality, cost-effective, ethical representation of our clients. We tailor our services to the specific needs of our clients to provide first rate legal services to our clients in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, or anywhere else where people need the services of high quality attorneys who are willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done.

For more information visit <http://www.manecklaw.com/>

