



# ZAPANJ



ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA & NEW JERSEY

## Newsletter - Winter 2016

### ZAPANJ BOARD 2015-2017

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## RELIGION CLASSES

### NOVEMBER CLASS

The November class was hosted by Khursheed & Noshir Bapasola to celebrate the marriage of their son Sam to Elizabeth Householder in November 2014.

At this class Freny Ranji and Nergish Karanjia continued their tradition of collecting non-perishable thanks-giving time food items for the food pantry in their area. ZAPANJ members contributed tins of cranberry jelly, stuffing etc for this worthy cause.

### DECEMBER CLASS

The December class was hosted by Freny & Syavux Patell and Nainshad Maneckshaw.

### JANUARY CLASS

The January class was hosted by Riah & Shahroukh Sidhwa, Leslie & Neville Ranji, Nilufer & Khushru Shroff and Jennifer & Purazar Gowadia.

In January, the adult class was recorded by Porus Cooper and he shares the lecture videos with all our members. He hopes to do the same for our subsequent classes too.

To view them, press Ctrl and click the links below.

[Prayer Class Lecture 1-9 \(1\).MTS](#)

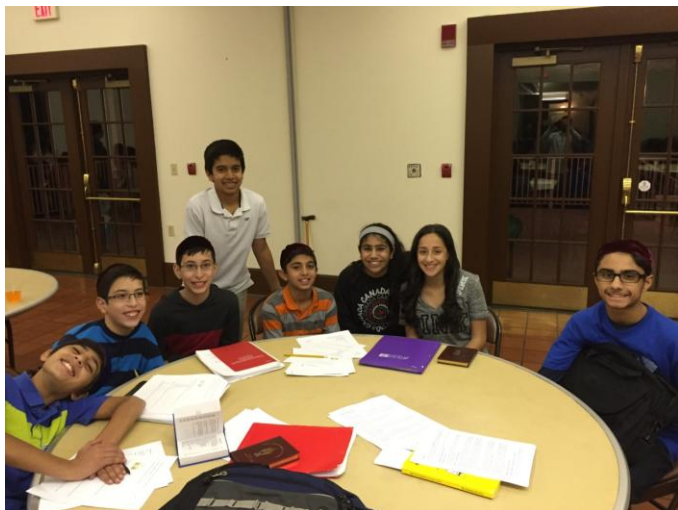
[Prayer Class Lecture 1-9 \(2\).MTS](#)

[Prayer Class Lecture 1-9 \(3\).MTS](#)

[Prayer Class Lecture 1-9 \(4\).MTS](#)

[Prayer Class Lecture 1-9 \(5\).MTS](#)

After the class, Zarnosh Maneckshaw from Maneck Law, P.C. held an interesting session on how his services could benefit our community.



Here are some of the students in Marazban Sarkari's class seen enjoying their discussions.

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## SAVE THE DATE

### Navroz Celebration and ZAPANJ AGM 2016

At **Palace of Asia, Fort Washington** (285 Commerce Dr, Fort Washington, PA 19034) on March 19, 2016 from 6 pm onwards

## NAVJOTE

Shania and Nozer Pochara, children of Mehzabin and Hormazd Pochara were initiated into our Zoroastrian faith on December 29, 2015 in India.

## SAD NEWS

Oovi Irani, wife of Farhad, and mother of Shiryn and Zarir, passed away on December 27 2015.

## APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE

### **Aryana Quettawala:**

We have received a message from ZAGNY via one of our ZAPANJ members regarding an appeal for assistance for treatment and cure for little Aryana Quettawala, daughter of Mitra & Kaeyan Quettawala residing in Karachi, Pakistan. Little Aryana, who was then, two and a half year old, had been diagnosed on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015 with Severe A-Plastic Anemia at the Aga Khan Hospital in Karachi, Pakistan. Her parents have considered several treatment options and are reaching out to their Zoroastrian brothers and sisters for their assistance and financial help and support for acquiring treatment for their daughter.

An email has already been sent out regarding this appeal with more details.

We request all our members to consider helping.

**You can contribute online at [zagny.org](http://zagny.org) or mail in a check. Please notate "Critical Assistance Aryana" in the memo line.**

**Checks can be mailed to Cyrus Pavri, ZAGNY Treasurer, 961 Franklin Turnpike, Allendale NJ 07401-1315.**

### **Polard Nazir:**

Polard is a close relative of our members, Persis & Arshis Pavri, has recently been diagnosed with a rare form of soft tissue cancer (differentiated liposarcoma) and is in a very traumatic and sad situation. He is in urgent need of financial help. Attached is an appeal letter which explains his situation and also details the assistance needed. Any kind of financial help would be much appreciated. **Please feel free to send your donations by check to Polard Nazir, Panchsheel Apts, Flat 3D, 41/1B, Jhowtala Road, Kolkata 19, India OR by wire as follows**

Beneficiary Name: Polard Nazir - 620 Aldar Bldg, Muraqabat Road, Dubai, India

Beneficiary Bank: Masreq Bank, Al Riqa Branch, Dubai UAE.

Account# 010793261143

SWIFT# BOMLAEADXXX

IBAN# AE440330000010793261143

## **RELIGION CLASS SCHEDULE – June 2016**

Here is a reminder to our members that the ZAPANJ boards, with the blessings of the class teachers, have decided to add an extra class starting from June 2016. This means that the ZAPANJ religion classes will now be from September to June.

## **RELIGION HALL RENTAL CHARGES**

The Gibson hall charges ZAPANJ \$300 per class (\$50 per hour). We appreciate all our members who have generously donated towards these hall rentals. All those interested in donating for the future classes may do so for the full class or can make any partial payments as well.

\*\*\*Please Note: From, June 2016, the hall rentals will increase to \$480 per class (\$80 per hour).

***Please send all checks to our treasurer, Meenaish Damania at 508 Quincy Street, Collegeville, PA 19426***

***Please mention what the check is for in the memo field!!***

## **NORTH AMERICAN MOBED COUNCIL**

The ZAPANJ Board is honored to host the North American Mobed Council on May 14-15, 2016. This will coincide with our May 2016 religion class.

We will need a few host families to host the Mobeds during the Mobed Council. We will also need family volunteers to provide for the meals during the conference and that class.

Please email us at [zapanjnews@gmail.com](mailto:zapanjnews@gmail.com) if you would like to volunteer.

## ZAPANJ GROUP VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

ZAPANJ gives back to the community in many ways and we are currently planning to volunteer at the Gift of Life House. The Gift of Life Family House serves as a "home away from home" for transplant patients and their families by providing temporary, affordable lodging and supportive services to those who travel to Philadelphia for transplant-related care.

The particular volunteer activity that ZAPANJ is considering is the 'Home Cook Heroes', which involves preparing and serving meals for about 35-45 people at the Gift of Life House in Philadelphia.

The Home Cook Heroes program provides a much-needed support service to families who often don't have the time, resources or energy to prepare a healthy, home-cooked meal. Family House meals are served each evening and brunch is served on the weekends.

ZAPANJ is considering volunteering for preparing a dinner for them either in April, May or June. The details are at: <http://www.giftoflifefamilyhouse.org/volunteer/homecookheroes/>

The website link above gives details on what their expectations are regarding cooking and planning and some important details are presented below:

- Dinner is planned to start at 6:00pm
- Each group of volunteers is expected to be not more than 10 people. If there are many volunteers from ZAPANJ we could have multiple groups going there on different days.
- They have a fully equipped kitchen and we are expected to bring only the ingredients required. ZAPANJ will reimburse the group(s) for the cost of the ingredients.
- Given the special medical condition of the residents it is a requirement that anyone who has any symptoms of illness, has recently been exposed to, or has a communicable disease (including the common cold) should not visit the Family House or be involved in any food preparation.

ZAPANJ hopes that there are many interested volunteers.

Please contact us via email or meet Marazban Sarkari during the prayer classes for more details and to register your interest to volunteer.

## ZACUCE UPDATE

### AMAZON SMILE: SHOP AMAZON AND HELP ZACUCE

Now, when you purchase Amazon products online a portion of the purchase price will go directly to ZACUCE when you make your purchases through AmazonSmile!

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support ZACUCE every time you shop, at no cost to you! When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same prices, selection and shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to ZACUCE!

To get started, register ZACUCE as your supported charity by following these directions:

- 1) Go to: [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)
- 2) Scroll down to "Search for your charitable organization"
- 3) Enter "Zarathushti Cultural Center"
- 4) "Zarathushti Cultural Center of Delaware Valley Inc" should show up. Click "Select."

You should be directed to the Amazon page you are used to viewing, but it should say "amazonsmile" in the upper left hand corner and the text "Supporting: Zarathushti Cultural Center Of Delaware Valley Inc" will be listed under the search box.

You can now search for products and purchase as you normally would have through Amazon and a portion of your qualifying purchases will go directly to ZACUCE! Once you have initially registered, all you have to do is start each purchase from the [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) page and ZACUCE will get the donation. You should not need to register ZACUCE each time you make a purchase.

Just remember to start each purchase from [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to email us at [zacuce.news@gmail.com](mailto:zacuce.news@gmail.com)

### **FEZANA BULLETINS:**

Please refer to these excellent bulletins from FEZANA for news and event updates from our NA communities as well as from Zoroastrian communities from all over the globe.

#### **November 2015**

[https://fezana.org/wp-content/uploads/FEZANA\\_Bulletin\\_2015\\_11.pdf](https://fezana.org/wp-content/uploads/FEZANA_Bulletin_2015_11.pdf)

#### **December 2015**

[https://fezana.org/wp-content/uploads/FEZANA\\_Bulletin\\_2015\\_12.pdf](https://fezana.org/wp-content/uploads/FEZANA_Bulletin_2015_12.pdf)

#### **January 2016**

[http://fezana.org/wp-content/uploads/FEZANA\\_Bulletin\\_2016\\_01.pdf](http://fezana.org/wp-content/uploads/FEZANA_Bulletin_2016_01.pdf)

### **FEZANA TO HOST 7TH WORLD ZOROASTRIAN YOUTH CONGRESS IN 2019**

FEZANA will be the host organization for the next Youth Congress. The 7th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress shall be hosted in the United States by a FEZANA member organization in 2019.

<http://fezana.org/fezana-to-host-7th-world-zoroastrian-youth-congress-in-2019/>

### **REGISTRATION FOR 15TH ZOROASTRIAN GAMES OPENS**

ZAC Chicago Announces Early Bird Registration to open Jan. 25, 2016

<http://fezana.org/registration-for-15th-zoroastrian-games-opens/>

## **RETURN TO ROOTS PROGRAM UPDATE**

The Zoroastrian Return to Roots is pleased to announce the opening of applications for Return to Roots 3 Trip scheduled to take place from 11th to 23rd March 2016. This will be the third tour after the first two very successful tours in 2013-14 and in 2015.

The aim of Zoroastrian Return to Roots is to bring together young Zoroastrians from across the world between the ages of 22-40; to return to their roots, reconnect with their culture, and revive the community. Participants ('Fellows') will explore various significant Zoroastrian historical, religious, cultural, and archaeological sites in India over a trip of 12 days.

The itinerary will take participants to Mumbai, Gujarat and New Delhi. The tour in 2016 is unique from the previous two since it will overlap with a series of exhibitions and events being organized by PARZOR and the Government of India in New Delhi from the 19th to 23rd of March.

One of the key aims of this program is to foster a sense of community amongst Fellows and for individuals to contribute to the institutions they visit as well as the program even after they have participated. Another aim of the trip is for participants to understand and realize the influence Parsis have had on modern-day India. Fellows also understand and experience first-hand the meaning behind our long-standing religious customs and traditions.

Fellows from previous trips returned from India with a deep understanding and appreciation for our small but powerful community. They are becoming more involved with their local Zoroastrian associations, giving back to the community, and encouraging other youth to participate in Return to Roots.

Applications close on February 15, 2016.

We encourage applicants to apply using the following link (<http://zoroots.org/>) before the deadline and approach one's local community members and associations for funding and sponsorship. Applications are accepted on a rolling-basis.

Return To Roots website: [www.zororoots.org](http://www.zororoots.org)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ZoroastrianReturnToRootsProgram/>

2016 Trip Program: <http://zororoots.org/2016-return-to-roots-tentative-itinerary/>

To Apply: <http://zororoots.org/apply/>

Fellows and Alumni: <http://zororoots.org/category/fellows/>

Image Gallery: <http://zororoots.org/gallery/>



## MESSAGE FROM ZAKOI

Dear Friends,

I have been doing this fundraiser for years at this time of the year to raise funds for our community's dream project - our future ZAKOI Worship Center. The Badam ni Bois are made for us by no other than our very own Roshan Rivetna (one of our most prominent Zoroastrians in NA, and a wonderful person) who has continuously inspired us to pursue this dream. This fundraiser would not be possible without Roshan's help, for which my community and myself are deeply grateful.

Our Zoroastrian Association of KY, OH, & IN (ZAKOI) consists of approximately a population of about 150 Zoroastrians in the tri-state region of KY-OH-IN, but we are a close knit and very active group that tries its best to meet the religious and cultural needs of all our people, youngest to the oldest, through celebrations, jasans, muktad prayers, religion classes & camps, and lots of social gatherings.

I choose to do this fundraiser at this time of the year - around the auspicious occasion of Norooz (Navroze) coming up in March, because the 'Fish' is a symbol of Happiness, Prosperity & Abundance in the Zoroastrian culture, and is often used to give as a gift among friends and family on many good occasions.

The Badam ni Boi (a sweet pastry made with crushed almonds and flavorings), is a great addition to your Norooz Table and a yummy treat for your family and friends. You can order it for yourself or for sending it to your friends around the country. We will pack and ship it to your friends/family with a personalized note from you. All the profits raised from the sale of these Bois will go to our ZAKOI Center Fund. This fund has been established and is continuously being raised to enable our community to have our own Worship Center someday when we have enough money to buy a place.

We will try to have a contact person in your community who will collect your orders, and deliver the Bois to you at your local Norooz function, or you can arrange to pick it up from the contact person's home earlier if you like. Or, you can have the Bois delivered to your own home directly. A few families can plan together and place an order at any one family's address.

### **The Bois are \$35 for a Pair, or \$18 for 1 Boi**

The approximate S & H rates for the Bois through USPS will be

\$6 for 1 Boi (Small Flat Rate Box)

\$13 for 2 - 7 Bois (Medium Flat Rate Box),

\$18 for 8 -15 Bois (Large Flat Rate Box)

Please place your orders with me as soon as possible, if possible, by mid-February. Your purchase of the Bois will be an invaluable help to us in progressing further towards having our Worship Center someday. If you are not interested in buying the Bois but want to help with our fundraiser, we will gratefully accept your tax-deductible donation check made to the ZAKOI Center Fund, and mailed to Bakhtavar Desai, 6383 Jamesfield Ct., Fairfield, OH 45014. A receipt with our Tax ID number will be mailed to you upon receipt of our donation.

Looking forward to receiving your orders and your help with spreading the word about our ZAKOI Worship Center fundraising, and thanking you in anticipation!

With Best Wishes on behalf of our ZAKOI Community,

Bakhtavar Desai

Zoroastrian Association of KY, OH, & IN (ZAKOI)

**Note: All those who are interested in ordering the Badam Ni Bois are requested to email us at [zapanjnews@gmail.com](mailto:zapanjnews@gmail.com) by February 15, 2015**

**We will place the order and distribute the bois at the upcoming ZAPANJ Navroz function on March 19, 2016 at the Palace of Asia, Fort Washington, PA**