



# ZAPANJ

ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA AND NEW JERSEY

Newsletter May 2003

[www.zapanj.org](http://www.zapanj.org)

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

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

**Joint Secretary:** Khorshed Vakil-Unwalla

Welcome to the first issue of the ZAPANJ Newsletter with the new Board of Trustees for 2003-2005.

**Cyrus B. Toorkey - President:** Cyrus resides in Cherry Hill, New Jersey with his wife Behnaz who is a Pathologist. They have two children Roshni and Darayus. Cyrus works for McNeil Consumer and Specialty Pharmaceuticals as a Pharmaceutical Representative. Cyrus has been involved with ZAPANJ, hosting many prayer classes and is currently a teacher of the older students in the prayer class. He is a naturalist by hobby and is very interested in maintaining the culture, traditions, and the Gujarati language of Parsi Zarathushtis. Ph: 856-751-0633

**Banoo Karanjia – Vice President:** is one of our young committee members. Banoo lives in Mt. Laurel, New Jersey. She works at McNeil Consumer & Specialty Pharmaceutical Company as an Associate Marketing Manager in Professional Services. She has in the past, been Joint Secretary for ZAPANJ, and is involved actively assisting with many religious activities. Ph: 856-802-0143

**Cyrus Mehta – Treasurer:** is also, one of our younger committee members. He is currently single and lives in Wayne, Pennsylvania. Cyrus has been a resident of the Philadelphia area for the last 10 years. He is a graduate of the Wharton School of Business at University of Pennsylvania in Operations Management. Cyrus is a Senior Analyst at the software company, Bentley Systems. While at University of Pennsylvania, he was actively involved with the Penn Zoroastrian Society, and his fraternity Phi Kappa Psi as a President. Ph: 610-240-0878

**Aban Singh – Secretary:** is from Bombay residing with her husband Krishan Pal (KP) in Audubon, Pennsylvania. They have three daughters Natasha, Ninoshka and Kyra. KP is a Director for Biometrics at GlaxoSmithKline. Aban is a Physical Therapist and a Clinical Geriatric Specialist working with a Home health care agency. Aban is very actively involved with Girl Scouts and with Diversity issues within the community. Ph: 610-539-9229.

**Khorshed Vakil-Unwalla -Joint Secretary:** is from Singapore, residing in Collegeville Pennsylvania for the last 10 years with Jamshed and daughter Ayana. Jamshed is a Chartered Accountant with his office at Plymouth Meeting. Khorshed holds a diploma in Hotel Management and graduated Summa cum Laude with a degree in Organizational Management. She has been very active in the Singapore Zoroastrian association as a Vice President and President. Ph: 610-831-0716.

## Past news to share:



**Navroze Function:** Our Navroze function was as usual, a great success with good food, good music, and great dancing, making the evening a very enjoyable one. The new board of trustees were announced, with one new board member joining us for 2003-2005. We also had a brief presentation by ZACUCE (Zarathushti Cultural Center), informing the membership about the future plans and appeal for financial help.



### **Prayer Class:**

Cooks for the prayer class-

**April:** *Veera Karanjia, Baktawar Dinshaw, Nilofer Shroff, and Freny Patel.*

**May:** *Aban Unwalla, Nivedita Masani, Khorshed Unwalla and Aban Singh.*

**Some corrections:** We apologize for incorrect names for the previous prayer class. The correct ones are:

**January:** *Nergis Karanjia, Persis Kasad, Daulat Mevawalla & Viloo Nalawalla*

**February:** *Hutoxi Cooper, Cyrus Mehta, Ruby Cooper & Mahrukh Kermani*

Thanks to one and all for the great food!!!



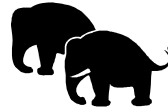
### **Carom Board Tournament:**

was won by *Cyrus Toorkey* and *Rustom Dinshaw* in the adult section and *Rohan Shroff* in the youth section. Congrats to the winners!!!

**Directory:** Our phone directories are ready for pick up. Get your copy if you haven't received one. Call/email *Aban Singh*-610-539-9229/kpsingh@aol.com

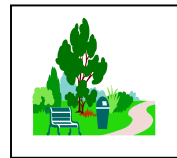
**Donations:** We have received all our donations that were pledged from our various members for the prayer classes. Thank you all for your help.

## Future events to participate in:



**June 14:** Mark this on your calendars. All the children currently participating in the prayer class will be going to the Philadelphia Zoo-215-243-1100. The day will last from 9:30 am-5:00 pm. Besides visiting the Zoo, we will also ride in the Philadelphia Zoo 6 balloon ride that goes up to 400 ft. It is a 15 minute ride and the capacity is 30 people /ride.

For the balloon ride children 9 and under need an adult chaperone. The admission fees are as follows: ages 2-11 years- \$8.45 for zoo and balloon \$12.95, and ages 12 and over \$10.00 for zoo and \$14.95 for balloon ride. Zapanj will pay for the zoo and balloon ride for all the children attending the prayer classes. Adults will pay for themselves. **Must call** *Freny Ranji* at 856-854-2251 by May 26<sup>th</sup>, if interested.



**End of June:** *Behnaz Toorkey* is coordinating a park cleanup at the end of June on Saturday or Sunday. If interested in participating, please call

*Behnaz* at Ph: 856-751-0633



**July 12: Outing at the beach:** organized by our Zapanj children *Sherry Bapasola* and *Amy Surti* and coordinated by *Khorshed Unwalla*. Call -610-831-0716 for details



**July 19: 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. Please RSVP to *Cyrus Toorkey* 856-751-0633 or *Banoo Karanjia* 856-983-4990, if

you plan to attend. Paper products, beverages, and watermelon will be provided by ZAPANJ. After the picnic, we will have "Tea" at the Kasads in Downingtown. Directions follows.

**August 23:** is the date tentatively set for our Papeti function. Details to follow.



## **Community News:**



### **Sit down dinner On May 10:**

was our last prayer class for the current season. This was a special Sit Down Dinner, wherein all the children of Zapanj participated in whatever way they could, and worked in teams together, irrespective of their ages. They thanked their prayer class teachers and then served dinner to all the adults, allowing the adults to sit and enjoy the dinner.

Every child had a special role to play hence making this a very memorable evening. We also had a guest speaker from India-Mr.Pervez Bajan We would like to thank all our children in a personal way by naming each and every child, who assisted in making this evening such a resounding success.

THANK YOU to:

**Making tablemats:** all the children ranging from 2 -17 year olds participated in this massive endeavor wherein 100 tablemats were made, taking 4 months to complete this project.

Some of our youngest members were; Eliza Eduljee, Ayana Unwalla, Shanaya Desai, Alexander Karanjia, Allison Karanjia, Serena and Rae Tarapore, and Lauren Ranji.

**Invitations:** formatted by Natasha Singh

**Set up and decoration:** were handled by Natasha Singh, Ninoshka Singh, Kyra Singh, Feroze Karanjia, Darayus Toorkey, Sherry Bapasola, Burgis and Tina Unwalla, and Rohan Masani.

**Name tags Handlers:** Natasha and Ninoshka Singh

**Welcome committee:** Rachel Stoneback, Evita Mehta, Tina and Ayana

**Ushers:** Rohan Masani, Darayus Kermani, Cyrus Patel and Arish Kanga

**Table Callers:** Malcolm Cooper and Monaz Kanga

**Main Course Food Servers:** Natasha, Ninoshka, Kyra, Darayus Toorkey, Feroze Karanjia, Sherry, Cyrus Kanga

**Drink Servers:** Rohan Shroff, Sohrab Boga, Burgess Unwalla, Mathew Daruwalla

**Dessert Servers:** Cyrus Boga, Burgis Cooper, Rachel and Serena Tarapore.

**Photographers:** Feroze Karanjia and Darayus Toorkey.

**Thank you Cards:** Amy Surti, Natasha, Ninoshka, Kyra and Sherry

**Thank You read by:** Sohrab Boga and Burgess Unwalla

**Thank you presenters:** Eliza, Arish, Shanaya, Darayus Kermani, Ayana, Rae Tarapore, Rohan Shroff, Rohan Masani, Tina, Cyrus Boga, Evita.

**Clean up:** One and all.

This massive effort would not have being possible if we did not have some help. Thanks to **Aban Singh** for organizing and coordinating this project with the children.

**Nivedita Masani, Aban Unwalla, Khorshed Unwalla and Aban Singh** for hosting the dinner.

**Aban Unwalla-** for guiding and teaching the older girls to make the beautiful corsages for all our female guests.

**Nilofer Boga:** for printing the invitations.

**Arnavaz Sukhia;** for providing paper for tablemats, vases and participating in our sleepover.

**Behnaz Toorkey:** for driving down the kids from New Jersey for the sleepover and assisting at the sleepover.

**Khursheed Bapasola:** for making the rose bouquets for all our teachers.

Each and every child and adult who participated in a big or small way, is represented here. **And once again thank you to one and all!!!!**

Visit our web site [www.zapanj.org](http://www.zapanj.org) for all the photos taken during the dinner.

**Creating Awareness:** The State of Michigan passed a resolution proclaiming Wednesday, Mar 20, 2003 as Iranian-American Day in

Michigan. This may create greater awareness of Iranian culture in this state.

**BBC Article:** There is a very interesting and informative article about Parsees from the BBC, which can be accessed at [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south\\_asia/2964155.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/2964155.stm). This article deals with the current debate over mixed marriages in the Zoroastrian community.



**ZAPANJ web site:** Our web site has a new look. Visit us at [zapanj.org](http://zapanj.org) and find out. We now have a guest book and also a message board. You can post your messages here and hence communicate with the world at large. We thank *Mr. Nozer Damania* for maintaining this web site.



**Movies Nights on Fridays:** TCM (Turner Classics Movies) TV station will be broadcasting Indian movies on Thursday nights in June 2003. The agenda is as follows:

**June 5<sup>th</sup>:** 8.00pm: Dilwale Dulania le Jayenge (1995), 11.30pm: Bombay (1995), 2.00am:

**June 12<sup>th</sup>:** 8.00pm: Rangeela (1995), 10.30pm: Dil Chanta Hai (2001), 2.00am: Sholay (1975)

**June 19<sup>th</sup>:** 8.00pm: Pakeezah (1971), 10.30pm: Junglee(1961), 1.00am: Awaara (1951)

**June 26<sup>th</sup>:** 8.00pm: Mother India (1957), 11.00pm: Do Bigha Zamin (1953), 1.30am: Pyaasa (1957)



**T-Shirts Sale-** *Phiroza Stoneback* has spearheaded the sale of T-shirts and Golf shirts as a fundraiser with the proceeds benefiting Zacuci. More information forthcoming so look out for that or contact Phiroza at 215-757-4052.



**New arrivals:** Please add these names to your phone directory.

**Pashang Patel:** works for Accenture who are a consultant company for

SAT Business Warehouse. Pashang lives at 1122 North Clayton St, Apt 1, Wilmington DE 19806. Ph: 908-380-3544

**Tanaz Dutia and Michael Reid:** live at 15 Cobblestone Road, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003. Ph: 856-424-3347. Tanaz is a Program Analyst for the U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services/Office of Inspector General. Michael is a Technical Strategist for TMX Interactive

**Percy and Anahita Tarapore:** live with their two children *Serena and Rae* at 63, Enclosure Drive, Morganville, NJ 07751. Ph: 732-591-8135. Percy is a Systems Engineer with AT&T. Anahita is Realtor at Murphy Realty.

**Parynaz Mehta** is a Project Consultant living at 200 Heritage Lane, Exton PA 19341. Ph: 610-280-0281

**Percy and Urvazi Ichaporia** live at 41, Redwood Drive, Laflin, PA 18702. Ph: 570-883-0886

**Thank You:** The board of trustees would like to thank past president-Arnavaaz Sukhia for all her hard work during the past two years.

**ZACUCE update:** Following the presentation for the Zarathushti Cultural Center in the Delaware Valley, at the Navroze function, ZACUCE is looking for a variety of support. There are a number of ways an individual can get involved:

- **Make a contribution**—there are a variety of ways money can be donated, from one lump sum to ongoing monthly contributions. Please contact Meher Mistry [[meherm1@yahoo.com](mailto:meherm1@yahoo.com)] or (610)-581-7703, for donation information. Meher will help you set up a bi-weekly, monthly, or bi-monthly schedule and will also, remind you to send in your check.
- **Volunteer on a committee**—If interested in volunteering in one of the committees below, please contact that committee member directly.
- **Spread the word**—Please support this project by advertising to any generous

individuals and programs. Please inform family and friends and ask them for their support. Appropriate materials will be provided for fund raising to you. We would be more than happy to work with you. Or, if you prefer, send us your information, and some leads and we'll do the leg work for you.

You are *welcome to attend* one of the bi-weekly meetings and learn more about the project. Please contact Jehan Kasad [[jkasad@yahoo.com](mailto:jkasad@yahoo.com)] or (609) 799-1954].

*Administration Committee*—please contact Freny Ranji [(856)-854-2261] or Meher Mistry [[meherm1@yahoo.com](mailto:meherm1@yahoo.com)] (610-581-7703).

*Direct Solicitation Committee*—please contact Jehan Kasad [[jkasad@yahoo.com](mailto:jkasad@yahoo.com)] or (609) 799-1954].

*General Fundraising Committee*—please contact Khursheed Bapasola [[kbapasola@yahoo.com](mailto:kbapasola@yahoo.com)] (856)-768-8351].

*Site Selection Committee*—please contact Tehmtan Tehsildar [[tehsildart@aol.com](mailto:tehsildart@aol.com)] or 908-281-7913].

*Special Events Committee*—please contact Anoo Sukhia [[sukhiaad@drexel.com](mailto:sukhiaad@drexel.com)] or (856)-751-7233].

*Youth Outreach Committee*—please contact Ava Lala [[ava\\_lala@hotmail.com](mailto:ava_lala@hotmail.com)] or 610-491-9254].

**Life Rules of Sports:** (submitted by Natasha and Ninoshka Singh)

- Winners are those people who make a habit of doing the things losers are uncomfortable doing  
-Ed Foreman
- Success is not the result of spontaneous combustion. You must first set yourself on fire.  
-Fred Shero
- Life is 10 percent what you make it and 90 percent how you take it.  
-Irving Berlin

- Two men look out of the window, one sees mud and other the stars.  
-Frederick Langbridge
- Win as if you are use to it, lose as if you enjoyed it for a change.  
-Golnik Eric
- To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe.  
-Anatole France.

**Directions to Marsh Creek State Park:**

**From the PA Turnpike:**

Take Downingtown/Westchester Interchange # 23 for PA Route 100 N.

Turn right at TPK exit to go north on Route 100 (Pottstown Pike).

Go through a 2-horse town called Eagle Village.

Going down the hill, see Moore's Furniture on right and two gas stations on left.

You will be directly facing "Eagle Tavern". \*Turn left to go WNW on Little Conestoga Road. First cross road is "Park Road" for Marsh Creek State Park. Turn left. The road dead-ends in Marsh Creek State Park.

Follow directions below \*\*for parking inside the park.

**From King of Prussia, PA:**

Take US Rt. 202 S to Frazer, PA

Take US 30 W (Business--not the Exton Bypass) to Exton and Downingtown. Turn right on US Rt. 30 to go West. After several lights, turn right on PA Rt. 100. Go approx. 5 miles to reach Eagle Tavern. \*Follow other directions from there.

**From Delaware:**

Take US 202 N. Pass West Chester, PA.

Take the exit for PA Rt. 100 N to Exton and Pottstown. Watch for junction with US Rt. 30.

Continue on and go approx. 5 miles to reach Eagle Tavern. \*Follow other directions from there.

**Directions from PA Route 100 South:**

Come down South on PA Rt. 100 S from Pottstown.

Pass Font Road on your right and Fellowship Road on your left.

Climb up a hill on Rt. 100 and come down the hill.

At the bottom of the hill, turn right on Park Road.

The road dead-ends in Marsh Creek State Park.

Follow directions below \*\*for parking inside the park.

**\*\*Directions inside Marsh Creek Park:**

When you see the parking lot, turn left and go up the hill. You will see another parking lot, just across from the swimming pool. Turn left and park in this parking lot. ZAPANJ holds the picnic in the wooded area just before this parking lot in the children's play area.

Directions to Kasads (Adi & Persis) for Tea in the evening:

Come back to Little Conestoga Road and turn left on it.  
Take first "Right" turn into 122 Christine Drive,  
Downingtown PA. Kasads are 7<sup>th</sup> home on right.

ZAPANJ Newsletter  
C/o Aban Singh –Secretary  
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