



ZAPANJ

ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA AND NEW JERSEY

Newsletter, november 2001

Tuesday September 11, will always be embedded in all our memories forever. With the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and Pennsylvania tragedies, all our lives have been affected in some way or the other. We convey our heartfelt condolences to the families of all the victims affected by this terrible tragedy. A message from the FEZANA President, representing the Zoroastrian associations, was sent to President Bush. This is printed in the newsletter for all of us to share.

We for our part, at ZAPANJ, held prayer meetings on October 6th at Arnavaz Sukhia's residence, which was attended by our members and officiated by Adi Unwalla and Noshir Karanjia. At our Gambhar ceremony in October, we observe a moment of silence remembering, and praying for our fellow citizens, and for world peace. At the Gambhar ceremony we collected donations (\$ 2501) to be send to American Red Cross. Following is the verbatim representation of the Letter of condolence sent out to President Bush on behalf of FEZANA.

Mr. President:

The Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America joins all non-violent and law abiding peoples of the world in condemning the "terrible assault on humanity" that was perpetrated on Tuesday, September 11, 2001 in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania. These inconceivable acts of destruction will forever be etched in the minds and hearts of all Americans who treasure every man's freedom, putting faith and trust in those around them. Our freedom has been attacked; our land has been attacked; our people have been attacked. The age of innocence for every American is lost forever.

No "cause" is worth fighting for if it generates a path of destruction along the way. We pray for the souls of the innocent victims who perished. We grieve with the near and dear ones of those who perished, and those who hold vigil for news of the survival of their loved ones. We stand shoulder to shoulder with those who volunteer their time, effort, and resources to help in physical, spiritual, emotional and material recovery from this epic tragedy.

History has shown that the course of civilization is interspersed with rare and inconceivable acts of massive destruction. The aftermath brings a rush of camaraderie, humanitarianism, and a tremendous sense of compassion. The healing has begun. Lets continue the process and gain strength from the infinite bonds we establish during our time of grief and regeneration.

Terrorists and their sympathizers should be brought to justice. Our worldwide Zoroastrian community joins us in our resolve to support the eradication of the scourge of terrorisms in all parts of the world. We pray that the righteous principles of human dignity and behavior guide all living beings on our terrestrial abode.

May God give you the strength and wisdom to guide this great nation through this crisis, and the prayers of the Zarathusthi community of North America.

Framroze K. Patel, FEZANA.

Past news to share:

October 9: Our Gambhar was a successful event with almost 150 people attending this event. A very special THANKS to Jehan and Behroz Kasad bearing all the costs of the entire event. This is the second consecutive year that they have sponsored the ZAPANJ Gambhar.

Roshni Cooper received her Good Life Emblem Award. Natasha and Ninoshka Singh read their papers on “Significance of Fire and Fire Temples” and “The Farohar” respectively, towards the completion of their Good Life Emblem Award.

Prayer classes: Thanks to our chefs Aban Unwalla, Kerban Chapgar, and Khorshed Unwalla for providing the food at our first prayer class, at Devon in September. The prayer class for **November 10** was held at Devon at the Mt.Zion A.M.E. Church, in Pennsylvania. Our cooks for this class were: Nilofer Shroff, Baktvar Dinshaw, and Havovi Jokhi. Thank you chefs for all your hard work and delicious meals.

Congratulations: We would like to offer belated congratulation to Vahbiz Karanjia on her graduation from high school. She is now attending the University of Michigan.

Table Tennis Tournament: A much enjoyed tournament was held at the Dinshaw and Sukhia residence. The ZAPANJ are champions are Kaizad Dinshaw who won first place for the adult category and Sherry Bapasola was placed first in the children’s category.

Navjote: Arish Kanga was initiated into the Zarathusthi faith on August 5th at Harbor Hotel Hall, Centaur hotel, Mumbai. Congratulations to Arish and his family.

Casino Trip: Our casino trip for November was cancelled due to poor response from our members.

Future events to participate in:

Cooking Class: The cooking class to be conducted by Percy Karanjia will be scheduled every month on the day of the prayer class. i.e. the second Saturday of the month. Class is open to children and young adults from 12 –25 years with a \$5.00 charge for all the materials and supplies. It will be held at the **Toorkey’s** residence. The participants will learn to cook some basic dishes, eat what they have made and then in the afternoon will be transported to the venue of the prayer class. Class size is 10 persons. Call and register with **Percy Karanjia** either at 732-390-1993 or email at **Karanjia@aol.com**.

Participants must sign a permission slip. A sample of this is attached to this newsletter. It is requested that all parents drop off their children and leave. If the parents wish to collect their child at 1.00 pm inform Percy. The first cooking class was held on November 10, 2001, and mouth watering dishes prepared were...Flank steak chimchurri (an Argentina dish), with grilled peppers and vegetables in garlic lemon sauce, and to end it all pineapple upside down cake. Register early.

Prayer classes: The prayer class for **December 8** will be held at Evesham Community Hall in New Jersey. Please call Adi Unwalla for directions. The chefs are: Behnaaz Toorkey, Phiroza Stoneback, and Freny Ranji.

It is imperative that parents call **Freny Ranji**, if you plan to attend the prayer classes, so we have a head count for the food. It would be greatly appreciated if you would make the call 2 weeks prior to the class.

Career Day Seminar: The Penn Zoroastrian Society and the Pan-Asian community are sponsoring the "Career Day" seminar and luncheon on November 18, 2001 from 12.00-3.00 pm in Room 17, Logan Hall, 249 South 36th street. Dr. Dolly Dastoor will be one of the main speakers at this seminar. This event is targeted at high school students emphasizing different careers. Everyone is welcome to attend this event. Please contact Penn Zoroastrian Coordinator **Mrs. Diana Dadachanji** at 215-898-6671 (W) or 610-275-2858(H)-after 7.00pm.

On November 17, we will all share a potluck dinner at Behnaz and Cyrus Toorkey's residence where we will meet and greet Dr. Dastoor in an informal way. She will talk to us on FEZANA. Everybody is encouraged and welcome to attend. Please contact **Arnavaz Sukhia** if you plan to come. We need a head count.

Community News:

The 12th North American Congress Zoroastrian Congress is to be held in Chicago on July 4-7, 2002. The congress theme is "Advancing Committees, Empowering Generations". The congress registration is officially open and brochures are available through **Arnavaz Sukhia** or for any questions, contact the sponsors directly at 630-789-1983 or on line at **www.zac-chicago.org**.

The early bird registration is postmark to December 31,2001. Fees are \$250.00 for adults. A student with ID, children under 10, and seniors 70 and over is \$175.00. Please add \$100.00 per person after December 31st and another \$50.00 after March 31st.

The Zoroastrian Symphony Orchestra (ZSO) established at the Seventh World Zoroastrian Congress in Houston is inviting all musicians, professionals, and amateurs to perform at the 12th North American Zoroastrian Congress in Chicago. For an application and more details contact **cyrusmehta@aol.com**, or 212-686-1581(W) Or 212-662-0932(H).

FEZANA invites nominations for the North American Zarathusthi awards, which will be present at the congress. The last date to submit a nomination is January 31, 2002. Any member interested in sponsoring an individual can do so. Details of process of nomination can be obtained from **Aban Singh**.

Notary Public: We have recently learnt that **Mr. Diniar Sukhia** is a Notary Public. He has graciously agreed to notarize any documents for our association members, free of charge. Please contact him at 856-751-7233.

Mobedyar Training: There is a growing need in our communities across the US and Canada for Mobeds and Mobedyars(assistants). Boys of Zarthusthi parents can qualify for this training. ZAPANJ will consider supporting the education effort of any interested member of our association. Please contact **Adi Unwalla** for further details at 856-983-6239

Building Fund update: ZACUCE (Zarathusthi Cultural Center of Delaware Valley Inc.) primary objective is to acquire and maintain property, to provide a meeting place for cultural, social, and religious activities. The center includes a religious place of worship, a library for Zarathusthi communities residing in the Delaware valley. ZACUCE has recently received non-profit status. The fund also received a big donation of \$10,000 recently. Please continue to

send your donations and if you wish to be involved in this committee contact **Noshir Karanjia** at 856-983-4990.

Children's contributions: We would like to encourage our children in their literary pursuits and to this end we invite any kind of artwork, pictures, drawings, poetry, etc, to be published in our newsletter. Please remember that all the above is subject to **editing and approval** of the Board of Trustees before being published.

Good Life Emblem Award: Since so many of our children have and are participating in the Good Life Zoroastrian Emblem Award, we have had many queries. Here is a brief write-up regarding this award.

This program is initiated, established, and administered by the Zoroastrian association of Greater New York (ZAGNY). The administrators of this program are Dr. Lovji Cama and Mr. Homi Gandhi.

This award is presented to a Zoroastrian religious class student from 12-20 years of age, after completing and fulfilling certain community-based requirements, for community service.

This program is based on the principle of **good life through action (Huvarshata)**, consisting of service projects, and understanding the basic principles of the Zoroastrian religion. It is one way of harnessing energy, enthusiasm, and dedication to serve our fellow human beings. It teaches good citizenship, actively working to enrich our community, working with people, learning about emergency services and understanding our civic responsibilities. In the process the children learn good communication, leadership skills, and gain tremendous confidence and self esteem.

This award is parallel to the Boy's Scouts of America Eagle award or the Gold award in Girl Scouts. All paperwork if submitted to the scouts troop will also earn the recipient the religious recognition badge from the scout's organization.

Our children do multiple service projects (going to nursing homes, donating food to the needy, learning about emergency preparedness, collecting money for disaster relief etc). As a final culmination of this award they are required to present and read a paper on any topic on Zoroastrianism. Prior to its presentation, Noshir Karanjia read and edits the paper for ZAPANJ students.

When all the requirements are met the children are presented with the Good Life Emblem award. At the present time, **Diana Dadachanji** is the Coordinator for this award.

New ideas: We would like to invite new and different ideas on conducting our Papeti and Navroz functions to make these events more interesting and fun, perhaps adding a different agenda rather than a "meet and eat" one. If anyone would like to share their thoughts please come forward and speak to any of the board members. It would be greatly appreciated.

New arrivals:

Ava Lala: is a young lady relocate from Farmington Hills, Michigan. She has recently graduated from University of Michigan with a degree in Communications. She is currently working with SEI Investment Co. on web strategies and assists with management of web content. Address is: 649 S. Henderson Road, Apt-D, King of Prussia, PA 19406. Phone: 610-491-9254

Mehernavaz Edibaum: is originally from Poona, having completed her undergraduate studies at Randolph Macon Women College in Virginia with a degree in Business, Economics, and Philosophy. She works in SEI Investment Co. as Finance Investment Analyst. Address is: 558, B-Dannaker Lane, Wayne PA 19087. Phone: 610 902 0413

New addresses:

Nilofer and Zerksis Boga have moved to: 4016 Bittersweet Circle, Collegeville, PA 19426.
Phone; 610-630-4642

Armin and Jal Surti are now at: 128 Kathleen Lane Wyomyssing, PA 19610
Phone; 610-670-2737

Mahrukh and Rohinton Deputy reside at: 120 Tembroke circle Phoenixville, PA 19460
Phone: 610-917-9891

Concluding thoughts:

If you wish any news (good or bad) to be published in the newsletter, make it your responsibility to inform the board members. Also, we would appreciate it tremendously, if you would inform us regarding change of addresses and phone numbers. Unnecessary time, money, and effort are wasted because the address or phone number is wrong. **Your cooperation on the above would be greatly appreciated. Remember, this is your newsletter, your association, and your community, so keep the lines of communication open. Thanks.**

PERMISSION SLIP FOR COOKING CLASS:

**PERMISSION SLIP
(18 and under)**

WHEREAS, _____
(hereinafter called "minor") in plan

**PERMISSION SLIP
(18 and under)**

WHEREAS, _____ (name of person/child)
WHEREAS, _____ (hereinafter called "minor") in planning on participating in the (event/activity)
arrangements for _____ on (date) _____;

WHEREAS, _____
WHEREAS, the event / activity will be sponsored by ZAPANJ which will make arrangements for the event / activity;

WHEREAS, _____
WHEREAS, minor is participating in the outing entirely upon his / her own initiative, risk, and responsibility;

NOW THEREFORE, _____
ZAPANJ to participate in the event / activity;
WHEREAS, I the undersigned have reached legal majority pursuant to the laws of _____ (your local state) and as a parent or guardian to the Minor;

I do hereby on behalf of the Minor and on my own behalf remiss, **RELEASE** and forever discharge ZAPANJ, the association, and all their officers, agents and employees, acting officially or otherwise, from any and all claims, demands, actions or causes of action on account of the Minor's death or on account of any injury to the minor which may occur from any cause during such event / activity.

Please list name, address and phone number of a person to be notified in case of an emergency:

NAME OF PARENT / GUARDIAN (printed): _____

NAME OF MINOR: _____

SIGNATURE / DATE: _____

(Parent / Guardian)