

Dear ZIG members,

Our last meeting was held on Sept 17th, at Judith & Navruze Rashid's house located in Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey. We had good attendance at this meeting including three new couples who gave humorous introductions. Khurshed Navder gave an overview of her discussion with Mehr Amersey who had formed the AIMZ intermarried group in Mumbai. She also talked about the other group ARZ which had caused a recent stir in Mumbai with the opening of a place of worship in Colaba. The focus of the AIMZ group is to help women who are intermarried and are being discriminated against. A lot of material was brought back and we will take steps to stay in touch with this group. We had several great dishes for the Pot-luck dinner and we all had a summer walk to enjoy the sunset overlooking the ocean.

We then held a discussion regarding holding a ZAGNY event to bring more awareness to our group. The intent is to have a healthy discussion on various Intermarried or Interfaith topics to educate the larger community.

This event our first open forum, "Blending Cultures & Comunity" is open to the entire ZAGNY community. It is planned for 5.30 p.m. on Saturday Nov 19th at the Pomona Darbe-Meher. This will be a tremendous opportunity to educate the larger ZAGNY community about our group and also have an open discussion on issues

We need the support of all ZIG members to come, participate and enjoy an entertaining evening with the rest of the community. Bring your friends and family. If you have not attended one of our meetings before please come, meet other ZIG couples and find out more about us.

We have attached a detailed agenda which includes speeches from Kaikhosrov Irani and Khorshed Jungalwala as well as our own ZIG members. The topics selected are not meant to be scholarly and will be targeted to the general audience and the youth. An open question-answer panel discussion will make this an open interactive session.

We will be posting an updates to this agenda on our ZAGNY web-site. Dinner will be served.

Please respond to this e-mail or contact Jasely Dukandar, and let us know how many from your family can attend this event. Its important that we establish an early count of the attendees. We also need ZIG members to volunteer for various activities at this event, so please let us know if you are willing to help out.

Looking forward towards your attendance at this event.

With regards,

Viraf & Toni Ghadi ally

Dear ZAGNY members,

The ZAGNY InterMarried Group (ZIG) would like to invite you to an entertaining and educational evening on Saturday November 19th at the Pomona Darbe_Meher.

Here is a brief introduction to our ZIG group.

We are living in an open secular society and are finding that a good percentage of Zarathusthis have intermarried. Many of these Intermarried couples have shown a willingness to continue to practice the faith and participate in ZAGNY community activities. However a large percentage from this group have gradually weaned away from community activities and some have lost contact with other Zarathusthis. Times have changed and several other religious organizations have successfully instituted Interfaith groups to keep Intermarried couples and their children in the community.

The objective of forming an InterMarried group was to facilitate a dialogue in an open forum with a focus on forming friendships and on community building. The group meets a few times a year for an open discussion and exchange of views on social, cultural and religious issues that are affecting them. This is being done with respect and developing an understanding of other faiths and cultures. The idea is to build bridges of understanding and encourage Intermarried couples to get more involved in community activities. Since its inception in Sept 2003 it has helped several couples to become more involved with ZAGNY activities.

The program for the evening includes a variety of speeches on Zoroastrianism and Intermarried topics. The topics selected are not meant to be scholarly and will be targeted to the general audience and the youth. An open question-answer panel discussion will make this an open interactive session.

Along with the typical challenges that most single faith couples encounter, Intermarried couples must negotiate a host of challenges related to their religious, cultural and racial differences. Our community is at a cross-roads. There is a lot of confused debate on the survival of Zoroastrianism. A new term Parseeism has been defined by some leaders in Mumbai, which puts specific customs above Zoroastrianism. Ours is a religion of choice yet instead of following a Multi-dimensional approach and embracing change there is a trend in India towards more inflexibility. Will we continue to follow an open accepting approach in the States ?

Title of Speeches.

“The Variety of Religious Commitments” - By Professor Irani.

This talk will focus on the commitments in terms of religious practices in Zoroastrian and other major religions of the world. Open your eyes to all the false commitments followed in Zoroastrian religion.

“Development of Gender Roles in Zarathushti society through the ages” – By Khoshed Jungalwalla. A historical perspective of the changing roles of women. Are we progressing ?

***THE ZAGNY INTERMARRIED GROUP (ZIG)
INVITES YOU
TO THEIR FIRST OPEN COMMUNITY FORUM***

Pomona Darbe Mehr, November 19th at 5.30 p.m.

- COME AND SPEND AN EVENING WITH US TO LEARN MORE ABOUT US
- OPEN YOUR EYES, LISTEN TO THE SPEECHES, LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR RELIGION AND COMMUNITY FROM DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS.
- BE ENTERTAINED BY THOUGHT PROVOCING SPEECHES FROM ZIG MEMBERS.
- EXPRESS YOUR OPINION BY PARTICIPATING IN THE OPEN FORUM.
HAVE AN INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE SPEAKERS.

EVENING PROGRAM

5.30 p.m. to 6 p.m.: Social - Tea, Soft drinks and Indian Snacks.

6 p.m. to 7 p.m.: Distinguished Professor Kaikhosrov Irani.
Speech Topic - "The Variety of Religious Commitments"
This talk will focus on the commitments in terms of religious practices in Zoroastrian and other major religions of the world. Open your eyes to all the false commitments followed in Zoroastrian religion.

Dr. Khorshed Jungalwala. – Past President of FEZANA.
Speech Topic - "Development of Gender Roles in Zarathushti society through the ages"
A historical perspective of the changing roles of women. Are we progressing?

7 p.m. to 7.10 p.m.: Short Break

7.10 p.m. to 8 p.m.: ZIG members Speeches.
Michel Reid - "Bawaji – Kem Cho"
A talk on his experiences with our community, while staying at a Parsee colony in Mumbai and during his marriage.

Joe Ball - "Are All Religions the Same?"
Focus on Spirituality and the differences among religions have to do primarily with ritual and dogma while the similarities are more significant.

Jasmine Dukandar - " " " "
Experiences on being raised in an intermarried household."

Dina Thakrar - "7 to 27....Is it Too Late for Religion?"
Regarding her journey towards a Navjote initiation. Why now?

8 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.: OPEN FORUM for Interactive Dialogue with Speakers.

8.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.: Indian Dinner Served from Natraj Restaurant.

NOTE: - YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND WITH YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY.

COST: - \$12/- (with e-mail or voice RSVP to Jasely Dukandar) \$14/- (walk-in without RSVP)
(jaselydukandar@yahoo.com or 732-494-7976)

The ZIG group was formed to facilitate a dialogue in an open forum with a focus on forming friendships and on community building. The group meets periodically to exchange views on social, cultural and religious issues that are affecting them