



ZAPANJ

ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA AND NEW JERSEY Newsletter October 2003

www.zapanj.org

President: Cyrus B. Toorkey **Vice President:** Banoo Karanjia
Treasurer: Cyrus Mehta **Secretary:** Aban Singh
Joint Secretary: Khorshed Vakil-Unwalla

Past news to share:



August 17 - Muktd Prayers for the Departed:

The *Muktd* is the time of year when our dearly departed visit us from the other world. Tables laden with flowers welcome them back and food (Satum) is offered to make their stay hospitable. Originally, the Muktd were observed for the 5 days of the Gathas. Later, it was extended to include the last five days of the calendar, as is the current practice today.

About 20 members attended the Muktd Prayers held on Aug 17th at the Days Inn. Our esteemed mobeds Ervad *Adi Unwalla* and Ervad *Noshir Karanjia* conducted the prayers invoking the names of our dearly departed. The event, which raised funds for ZACUCE, brought us one step closer to realizing our goal of having a center.



Prayer Class: Thanks to our cooks for a delicious meal at the September prayer class. Our cooks were *Diana Dadachanji*, *Shirin Jahanian*, *Roshini Kanga* and *Arnavaz Sukhia*. The adult class learnt about "Rivayats" which means information and guidance to the Parsees from the Irani Zarathushtis regarding religious customs, beliefs, rituals and practices.



August 23 - The Pateti Function: Members and their families gathered on August 23rd at the Chateau Granieri to welcome the Shahensai New Year. The new venue was well-

received and good food and drinks were enjoyed by all.

President *Cyrus Toorkey* presented the high school graduates with scholarships from ZAPANJ. Following that, *Katayun Kapadia* drew the winners of the raffle tickets. Amongst the children of ZAPANJ, *Tina Unwalla* guessed the correct number of M&Ms in the jar and *Kayzad Jokhi* showed us the true meaning of sportsmanship during a very entertaining game of musical chairs. Finally young *Ayana Unwala* just danced the night away.

In all, the evening had the 3 elements of a successful Bawa function - *khai, pi, ne maja... or...* as we would say for all those American Bawas out there, *eat, drink, and have fun!*

Gambhar News: We celebrated our Gambhar on October 19, 2003 and everyone enjoyed the Dhansak, kababs and the delicious food. Thanks to *Jehan* and *Behroz Kasad* for sponsoring the Gambhar for the fourth year. Thanks also to our priests *Adi Unwalla*, *Noshir Karanjia*, *Minocher Dadachanji* and our newest Mobedyar *Sam Bapasola* for conducting the prayers. *Sam Bapasola* was awarded a certificate from NAMC (North American Mobed Council) in recognition of his achievement to the Mobedyar status. *Sam* thanked *Adi Unwalla* who is his mentor and guide, by presenting *Adi Unwalla* with a beautiful shawl. On behalf of ZAPANJ, *Cyrus Toorkey*, also presented *Sam* with a plaque congratulating him. Young *Malcolm Cooper* has volunteered to be next person to learn and prepare to be a Mobedyar and this news was met with enthusiasm by one and all.

Monaz Cooper read a paper on Zoroastrian marriages, as one of her requirements for the Good Life Emblem Award. Cyrus T. thanked our volunteers for the various jobs of cooking, setting up and cleaning and to Freny Ranji for coordinating this event. Prayer class for the

Future events to participate in:

ZACUCE Fundraiser:

Please mark your calendar for the first fundraiser hosted by ZACUCE on November 8th 2003. Refer to the attached flyer for details. For tickets contact Jehan Kasad at 609-799-1954.

One of the very exciting highlights of this event is the raffle of **hand embroidered GARA** donated by *Naju Davar* from Bombay. Tickets for this raffle are only \$10.00 and can be obtained from *Jehan Kasad*. You can view the Gara at ZACUCE's website www.zacuce.org Please come forward and purchase more than one ticket to have a better chance at winning this beautiful piece of work and support ZACUCE in their fundraising efforts.

Another attraction are **two FREE AIR INDIA TICKETS, as door prizes**. So, if you get lucky, you might take a trip!!

A brochure is also being printed for this event. To place your advertisements, the rates are as follows:

\$35 Business Cards 4 1/4 x 3 1/3 inches
\$65 Quarter Page 4 1/4 x 5 1/2 inches
\$80 Half Page 8 1/2 x 5 1/2 inches
\$100 Full Page 8 1/2 x 11 inches
\$300 Front Inside Color Cover 8 1/2 x 11" inches
\$300 Back Inside Color Cover 8 1/2 x 11 inches
\$500 Back Color Cover 8 1/2 x 11 inches

The evening promises to be fun, vibrant and an event to remember. Children are especially encouraged to attend, as this will be a different cultural experience for them and remember that tickets for children are only \$50.00 each. COME ONE AND ALL, bring your friends, families,

month of October was held shortly thereafter. At the prayer class, the Bapasola family gave a donation of one audio Prayer tape to each child of the class.

and children and help to make this event a successful one.



November Prayer: The class will be held at Devon in PA on **November 15** at 4.30 pm. Please remember to bring a topi or scarf for use during the Humbandagi.

Mark this changed date on your calendar. Our cooks for this event are *Freney Ranji, Phiroza Stoneback, Behnaaz Toorkey* and *Havovi Jokhi*.



Community News :

FEZANA News: Don't forget to buy or subscribe to the Fall 2003 issue of FEZANA magazine. All our ZAPANJ children's picture with a short write up regarding the coordination of our Sit Down Dinner, which took place in May 2003, is published. Keep a copy of this issue for your family

Pledges for the Prayer Classes for year-2003:

We would like to acknowledge and thank these **generous** individuals for sponsoring our prayer classes by pledging \$200.00 each. They are:

1. *Neville and Mahrukh Kermani (2nd consecutive year)*
2. *Cyrus Mehta*
3. *Cawas and Kamal Desai*
4. *Dhun Mehta and Vernon Allbright*
5. *Benafir and Rushad Eduljee*
6. *Cyrus and Behnaaz Toorkey (2nd consecutive year)*

Thank You very much indeed and hope many more follow your example!!!!



Newly Weds:

Congratulations to *Simone Tehsildar* on her marriage to *Rishi Kakar*. They plan to reside in New York.

Congratulations to *Farzin Irani* on her marriage to *Vasee Sivasegaram* on August 30th. They plan to reside in Philadelphia.



Cruise information:

The Zoroastrian Society of Ontario is arranging a fun filled Champagne Eastern Caribbean cruise through *Travelsource Network*, commencing on January 31st 2004-February 7th 2004. The cruise will be on Princess Cruise Lines' grand class ships, the Golden Princess. If interested please call *Dela Kooka* at 1-800-561-9999 ext.334 or 905-468-0405 or email at delatravelcogeco.ca

New Priest in our ZAPANJ Community:

Sam Bapasola was ordained a Mobedyar, or assistant priest, in an initiation ceremony at his home, in September. He is only the fourth Zarathushti to attain this status in North America since the North American Mobed Council created this position a few years ago, to alleviate a shortage of priests. *Ervad Adi Unwalla* was his mentor and tutor along the way for the last three years. Sam was introduced to the community as a para priest, by *Mobeds Adi Unwalla*, *Noshir Karanjia*, *Behram Panthaky* and *Minocher Dadachanji*. Sam is currently a freshman at Drexel University in Philadelphia, studying business. An article on him was published in the Philadelphia Inquirer, which can be visited at <http://www.philly.com/mlD/philly/6990591.htm>

Congratulations to parents *Khursheed* and *Noshir Bapasola* and sister *Sherry* on such an inspiring achievement.

Youth Congress in Toronto:

Cyrus Mehta, *Ava Lala*, *Mehernevaz Edibaum*, *Vahbiz Karanjia* and *Neville Bharucha* attended the **Nexus 2003 Zoroastrian Youth Congress** in Toronto from July 24th to July 27th. The Congress provided a great deal of opportunities for Zoroastrian Youth from all over North America to meet, network, learn, converse, and most importantly have fun with their fellow Zoroastrians. The programming and entertainment provided the right balance between education and entertainment including events such as "Zoroastrian Myths and Legends", "Zoroastrian Matchmaking", "Energizing the Zoroastrian Entrepreneurial Spirit", and the Gala Ball. Many of the attendees were the youngest ever to attend a youth congress and consisted of a large number of individuals who were in their high teens/low-twenties crowd which made for quite the high energy crowd socializing till the wee hours of the evening (or morning for some of them).



Marathon for Zareen Tehsildar:

Good luck to *Zareen* for participating in her first marathon on November 2, 2003 in New York City. *Zareen* recently graduated in Business from Lehigh Valley University and is now employed by Price Waterhouse, Lybrand & Cooper.

Address Changed: The following members have moved. Please make the changes in your directory.

1. *Feroza Mistry* now resides at 2214 Fairmount Ave, 3rd floor Philadelphia PA
2. *Sanober Mistry* is at 377 Poplar Ave Apt N-479, Devon PA 19333

Aban Singh
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