

# Zarathushtrian Association of New Zealand (ZANZ)

## What's <sup>Up</sup> BawaZ President's Message

01/12/2013  
Volume 1, Issue 1



Dear Members and Fellow Zoroastrians,

It gives me great pleasure, along with my team, to introduce to you the revamped ZANZ Newsletter 'What's <sup>Up</sup> BawaZ'. The ZANZ Newsletter, erstwhile called the 'ZANZ Gazette' used to be one of immense pride, containing all our activities and updates happening within our organization and the wider community. Sadly, the last edition of it came out in 2007 and then it closed down.

The new ZANZ Committee has worked hard with renewed vigour to review and revamp the same with a fun name and called it 'What's <sup>Up</sup> BawaZ'. The logo of the newsletter says it all.

In New Zealand we would like to see the ZANZ newsletter revamp our community the way it should. Let's make a difference together as we move forward as a unified group and bond together as a community.

Kind Regards,

Paeterasp Vevaina

### NEW ZANZ Logo

It gives us great pleasure to introduce the new logo of ZANZ to the wider community. The original logo of ZANZ had been created by Mr. Faram Engineer in 1998. In early 2013 the then ZANZ Committee ran a competition. From the submitted entries, the design presented by Shawn Lawyer was chosen as the winning one. A big thanks must also go out to Mrs. Benifer Irani for getting the committee in touch with a professional graphic designer. The design was further worked upon by Mr. Shailesh Parajapati, a graphic designer who volunteered his time to ZANZ to help out in tidying up the design. The ZANZ website will soon be updated to reflect the new logo. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all people involved, especially Mr. Faram Engineer, Shawn Lawyer, Mrs. Benifer Irani and Mr. Shailesh Prajapati.

#### Original ZANZ LOGO



#### New ZANZ Logo



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#### Matrimonial Column

Zubin Burjor Sethna, [Electrical and Telecommunications Engineer], age 41, born in UK, residing in Brisbane is looking for a good natured, caring, intelligent, family oriented girl willing to settle in Australia.

Mobile – +61 425 239 253,

Email – [zubinix@yahoo.com.au](mailto:zubinix@yahoo.com.au)

## A Very Special Message

- Meher Amalsad, Founding Chair of the world Zoroastrian youth Congress and the North American Zoroastrian youth Congresses

My Dear Respected Members of the New Zealand Zarathushti Community,

I would like to commend you all for supporting the 6th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress in New Zealand, in 2015. This special event will put your community on the World Map for reaching out to our Global Zarathushti Youth. Thus, it is important to host this event that will showcase the Best of the Best that your community has to offer.

The Congress organizers under the leadership of Tinaz Karbhari, Roxanne Medhora and Nazneen Sukhia are doing a fabulous job to-date with your support. The host - Zarathushtrian Association of New Zealand to-date, has bent over backwards to make this a memorable Congress for which we are immensely grateful, specially to the ZANZ Managing Committee since 2011.

However, I want to offer a clarification regarding the financial commitment of the host that was agreed upon when this Congress mandate was given to ZANZ under the leadership of Jarafshan Mistry in 2011. Together, we have to make sure that ZANZ does not have to bear the burden of a financial loss.

ZANZ was asked to put-in a seed investment of \$5000, which was to be returned prior to the commencement of the Congress.

To-date, ZANZ has FULLY met their financial commitment for this event.

Any other financial requirements/needs will have to be handled via personal or corporate donations / sponsorship / advertisements locally, nationally and globally; without expecting / influencing ZANZ to contribute any further. This has been the protocol for all the North American and World Zoroastrian Youth Congresses hosted to-date since 1985 under my guidance.

LETS EACH ONE REACH ONE AND TEACH ONE the value of UNITY WITHIN DIVERSITY IN OUR COMMUNITY so that our future generation can emulate us as ROLE MODELS. The ZANZ Committee and the youths have been working tirelessly towards the success of the congress. The paths may be different but the end objective is the same. Let us all work together, to deliver a fantastic congress.

If you have any questions regarding this clarification please feel free to contact me directly at [BabaMeher@prodigy.net](mailto:BabaMeher@prodigy.net).

Thank you for your understanding and support.

With Love, Light, Appreciation and Gratitude from,

Meher Amalsad

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*“Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it’s thinking of yourself less.” - C. S. Lewis*

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## Nirang—The Water of life

- By (late) Dasturji Dr. Sohrabji H Kutar. U.K. (1969); Contributed by Er. Viraf Fatakia

*This is an edited excerpt from an article on Nirang written by Dr. Kutar, the late head priest in England.*

In 1963, Dr. Firoze M. Kotwal brought some *Nirang*, which had been consecrated in a Nirangdin ceremony performed at the *Vadi Dar-e-Meher* of Navsari. Six years later, I submitted a small quantity of this Nirang for chemical analysis to the London firm of Henner and Cox Ltd., together with a control sample taken at that time from an ordinary bull on an English farm

*Nirang* as known to Zoroastrians is not ordinary urine. It is the urine from some specially selected and an all-white Bull, collected by elaborate aseptic technique and converted by rituals and ceremonies into an aseptic liquid and consecrated through the power of our *Maanthra-vaani* by an elaborate ceremony of *Nirang-Din*.

This consecrated Nirang has healing properties found efficacious in skin diseases by local applications and some internal diseases like Peptic ulcers, urinary calculi etc. when administered orally in minute quantities associated with prayers and *Nahaan* ceremony.

It is known that ordinary urine left to itself soon decomposes and emits offensive odour. That is due to quick growth of millions of germs in it of both pathogenic (disease-causing) and non-pathogenic (relatively harmless) organisms.

In order to satisfy myself and if successful to show and prove to the disbelievers the sterile and clean nature of *Nirang*, I submitted two specimens of *Nirang* to Dr. Saunders with a request to test them in the Pathology Laboratory for any growths.

Dr. Saunders is the Consultant Bacteriologist to St. Nicholas Hospital, London. I explained to him what I wanted done and why! He agreed to oblige me by culturing both the specimens. Not being a Zoroastrian he firmly believed that the specimens of *Nirang* one six years old, which was with me in use and was about to finish and another one six months old sent to me from Bombay by Ervad Dr. Peshotan Anklesaria, Principal of Cama Athornan Institute, would both contain large number of bacteria, would show many colonies of all kinds of bacteria, pathogenic and non-pathogenic.

He did not know or suspect the power and the efficacy of our prayers. When he examined the Petri dishes of the cultured specimens he was profoundly surprised that both specimens did not grow a single colony or germ of any kind. Both the specimens were completely and absolutely sterile. When I went to collect the reports of the cultures he said, "**Dr. Kutar! This is astonishing. I expected samples of urine 6 years and 6 months old to be stinking to high heaven and full of bacteria of all kinds. I have never seen anything like this in all my long professional life! Here are your Petri Dishes.**"

I got pictures taken of the Petri Dishes, showing no growth of any kind. In contrast the picture of the control Petri Dish of the culture of ordinary urine shows growths of colonies of Pathogens and non-Pathogens.

This revelation I hold to my co-religionists as power of our *Maanthravaani* and the efficacy of the *Nirang-Din* ceremony and leave the non-believers to refute with empty words what scientific inquiry confirms.

- Dasturji Dr. Sohrabji H. Kutar, U. K. (1969)

Full info can be obtained at website : <http://tenets.zoroastrianism.com/nirang33.html>

## A moment of immense pride

One of the prominent headaches in the community for parents whose children are getting married is to find a marriage celebrant. However that should now be a problem of the past. Our very own renowned Dasturji Er. Khushroo Master and Mrs. Benifer Irani, are in the process of becoming the first two Zoroastrian Marriage Celebrants in New Zealand.

Khushroo and Benifer, both have already submitted their applications and they are being processed currently. We wish Khushroo & Benifer all the very best and look forward to them receiving their license soon.

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*“When there is no enemy within, the enemies outside cannot hurt you” - Winston Churchill*

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## Update by the 6th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress (WZYC) Organising Committee

It has been an exciting and very successful year for the youth organising The 6<sup>th</sup> World Zoroastrian Youth Congress. With the guidance and support of The ZANZ Management Committee and the wider Zoroastrian community within New Zealand, the youth have organised great fundraisers, including, The Valentines Day Ball, Mini Olympics, A 3-Night Hypnotist Show and the annual ZANZ Navozze Function. The next big fundraiser will be an end of year exam party. All of the proceeds collected from these fundraisers are going towards the 6<sup>th</sup> WZYC, to ensure it is one of the best youth Congresses ever!

The preparation for the Congress is also going very smoothly, with the accommodation and entertainment organisation being on track. We are still in the process of collecting funds from overseas, however, we are very grateful to our already committed global sponsors. At this time, we also welcome any sponsorship from local individuals, businesses and families. We look forward to the continued support from The ZANZ Management Committee and our wider community.

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*“Unity to be real must stand the severest strain without breaking.” - Mahatma Gandhi*

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## Update by the Zoroastrian Community Trust (ZCT)

The ZCT trustees would like to thank the community for their continued support. This year in March we had Garage Sale and Food Bazaar. It was a great fund raising event with many lucky people picking up some good bargains, and more importantly people enjoyed eating the food that was on offer.

In June we conducted a community wide survey and the overwhelming majority (over 83%) of respondents agree that the Zoroastrian community needs a centre in NZ similar to overseas or structures in NZ by other religious groups.

In July we had a Mid-Winter Dance with a live band performance by SPECTRUM. The theme for the evening was Saints and Sinners, and many of the attendees came dressed for the occasion and a fun time was had by all.

In August just before the Muktaad we had organised a Memorial Tree Planting event at CUE Haven. For many of the attendees it was the first time they ever planted a tree in remembrance of a departed loved one.

We have also updated our website and given it a complete new look. Recently a press article on ZCT was published in Jam-e-Jamshed newspaper in Mumbai.

The Trustees of ZCT would like to take this opportunity to thank all the donors, volunteers who help out at the fundraising events and all those in the community who support by attending the events.

We need more financial support from the community and look forward to getting more donors on board. Larger the funds we generate, the quicker ZCT can achieve its objective of having a Community Centre and a Place of Worship in Auckland.

For further information on ZCT please contact us on [zcentre@gmail.com](mailto:zcentre@gmail.com) or refer to our website [www.zct.co.nz](http://www.zct.co.nz)

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*“Many of life’s failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.” - Thomas A. Edison*

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## Traditions and Preservation

—By Pervin Medhora

Now that I live in New Zealand I have had time to reflect from a distance on many of the Zarathushti traditions and rituals that my parents grew up with, e.g. like going to the fire temple during the holy Muktdad, the celebration of Ava Yazad and Atash nu Parabs, the Ghambars and many others, some of which we need to be taught or are so intricate that we need to practice their performance.

Also today's youth are being exposed to a plethora of religious beliefs and traditions and parents do not have all the answers to the many challenges that their children face. Today's youth are interested in learning more and more about the practices and traditions of our Zarathushti faith. Living in NZ our youth are striving to preserve and understand our cultural identity against a backdrop of global diversity.

There is a growing awareness of tradition amongst the younger generation and there is a sudden influx of young Ervads in NZ. [This will be the subject of discussion in my next article].

Coming back to traditions and preservation, the main reason for celebrating my daughter's wedding in India was to fulfill her dream to have a traditional wedding. We literally scoured the internet for publications and books on Zoroastrian weddings in an effort to understand the unique concepts of celebration, tradition and ritual prior to and on the day of the wedding. We complemented our research with invaluable support and advice from the elders of our family and friends.

It was a fairy tale wedding and Kashmira was overjoyed to include in her ceremony the traditions of MadavSORO (tree planting ceremony), Supra ni reet, applying of haldi (turmeric), the concept of Divo Adarni, the various sagans (celebrations four days before the wedding), nahan ritual (purification bath), chalks (limestone designs on the floor) and the fun that her sister derived from demanding money after the haath borvanu (washing the hand of the groom) ceremony. Another excitement was the thread that is passed over the couple seven times binding them together and then they are supposed to throw rice at each other symbolizing dominance. Many of our family and friends were surprised that such a young couple would cherish these older traditions. They were even more surprised and delighted that we included the authentic patra nu dinner (dinner on plantain leaves) and we, as a family, circled the Baug shaking hands with each and every individual present.

Kiwi friends had specially travelled to India to join us at the wedding celebrations. They were the first ones to book their flights and even bought sarees to wear at the wedding. They embraced our customs, the different décor, food, colors and flowers that make up the traditional Zarathushti wedding. Kashmira has fully embraced the traditions of her heritage and has approached her married life with mind and heart at one with the understanding of traditions. I am confident that Kash will continue to uphold these ways and pass them on to her children when the time comes. **The future is in capable hands.**

Adherence to the traditions during the wedding was fun and truly enlightening as it taught us a lot and answered many questions as to why these ceremonies are performed. As to preserving the traditions, let's leave it now with the young generation.

## Invitation for Contributing Articles to the Newsletter

Dear Members and Friends of ZANZ,

This is the first edition of the ZANZ Newsletter. We will endeavor to release 3 editions every year. We invite members as well as non-members and fellow Zoroastrians to send in articles on any of the below mentioned topics:

1. Achievers - latest personal, academic, extra-curricular achievements of any Zarathushtrian (Irani and Parsi) individuals of New Zealand.
2. BawaZ Jokes / Cartoon Corner / Quizzes / Crosswords / Sudoku / Games / Cartoon strips / Jokes, etc. (no copyrights).
3. Kid's Corner - Kids can send their artwork or small write-ups.
4. Food Corner / BawaZ Recipes - Great idea to share recipes, a chance for all home cooks to shine. It can also be something of significance e.g. malido, etc.
5. Thought of the Day / BawaZ Wisdom !! - Nice phrase or a moral based short story.
6. Local Community News - Happenings in and around other local communities. e.g. any interesting play, activity at a community centre which might be of interest to the rest of the community.
7. Advertisements of Zarathushties owned Businesses - A small paragraph about what type of business and contact details. A small fee may be levied, will be confirmed by the ZANZ Managing Committee.
8. BawaZ Navjote Mubarak / Shaadi Mubarak Column (new stock/babies arrivals or additions to Parsi Clan and/or forthcoming Lagans).
9. Matrimonials Column (BawaZ Lagan.com).
10. Obituary - List of Zarathushties maran (death) and also Paidast, Sarosh nu Patru, Uthamnu, Varsi Prayers, Mukhtad/Gathas Prayers at Dadgah, etc.
11. Job Vacancy / Situation Vacant.
12. Rentals / tenancy wanted / House to sell / Business to sell.

For all articles there will be a word limit of 150 words which will need to be strictly adhered to.

**Please do send in your write-ups, notices, adverts, etc. via email to [newsletter@zanz.org.nz](mailto:newsletter@zanz.org.nz).**

Also kindly note that no religious controversies will be allowed in this newsletter. Also the ZANZ editorial committee reserves the right as to which articles may make it to the final newsletter and which may not.

God bless and send in your articles quickly, for you all to view and also the World to view !!