



**FEDERATION OF ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATIONS
OF NORTH AMERICA**

<http://www.fezana.org>

Representing 25 Zoroastrian Associations in the USA and Canada

August 20, 2006

Dear fellow Zarathushtis:

Today it is Hormazd roj and Fravardin mah, 1376 Y.Z. Parsis all over the world are celebrating their Spiritual New Year. On this occasion, Yasmin & I send you our Greetings and wishes for a Happy and Joyous New Year.

Most Parsis in Mumbai and other towns in India and Pakistan will visit one of the Atash Behrams or Agiaries. Many will wear new clothes and exchange presents, sweets and pleasantries. It will be a happy day with the family and then in the evening, some entertainment at the Club with friends, or at a cinema hall or even a Parsi comedy Natak.

Here in North America and in other parts of the world, our Anjumans will celebrate the New Year in various ways on various days. Most cities still do not have their own Darbe Mehrs or meeting halls, so they will improvise. They may reserve a hall at a hotel or at one of the Indian restaurants, or as in the case of Washington, DC, reserve a riverboat for the evening. The New Year get-togethers will include prayers followed by song, dance and short plays by our youngsters, under the coaching of their Avesta class teachers. Then everyone will enjoy a catered dinner followed by dancing. Our brethren from Iran will join the Parsis out of friendship, respect, or family ties; just as the Parsis join them for celebrating Navroze in the Spring in the traditional Iranian ways. Here in Florida, we had one celebration in Orlando last week (see attached photo). Ervad Soli Dastur led us in Jashan prayers, with the enthusiastic participation of everyone. We will have another in Tampa next week, and the biggest one in Miami on September 2. This is how we celebrate our togetherness and express our joy and gratitude to Ahura Mazda for the many blessing we enjoy.

The week before the New Year is also important. Our mobeds perform the Mukta prayers as we honor the souls of our ancestors and ask for their blessings. At home, some Parsis have the tradition of reading the Gathas. Some recite the Mukta prayers themselves. Some read the Patet, repentance for any misdeeds done knowingly or unknowingly. The last day of the year is aptly called Pateti. The idea is to remember the past and pray for a happy and righteous future. The New Year is therefore also our spiritual connection with the enduring legacy of our ancestors, of whom we are so proud and ever grateful, and our connection with the ritual prayers that are being said in India, Pakistan, and all over the world.

Today in Surat and surrounding areas, there is much sadness and suffering due to the floods. Let us remember them too and wish them peace and recovery and send them all the help we can.

Yasmin & I wish you a Happy Parsi New Year.

Rustom Kevala

President, FEZANA

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