NEW YORK DAR-E-MEHR

10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION ON NAVROZE

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2026

Sunshine, blue skies, and a hint of spring in the air with blooming daffodils, welcomed guests to the Arbab Rustom Guiv Dar-e-Mehr (DM) in Suffern, NY. Flames rose gracefully from the fountain, setting a warm and vibrant tone.

Sagan-nah-Chalk by Percis Bansal, Aiyana and Kerbanoo D'Rosario, and exquisite floral *Torans,* donated by Pouruchishti and Farokh Hirjibehedin, beautifully crafted by Kerbanoo D'Rosario, adorned the entrance doors.





Inside, picture frames of Zarathustra and Arbab Rustom and Morvarid Guiv, as well as the *Atash-Gah* were decorated with beautiful fresh flower garlands artistically created by Sheroo Kanga.



The ballroom glowed with crisp white linens and elegant spring-hued floral arrangements as more than 400 guests gathered to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the DM building on the auspicious occasion of Navroze. It marked one of the largest gatherings at the venue since its inauguration on March 26, 2016 (when more than 650 guests attended).



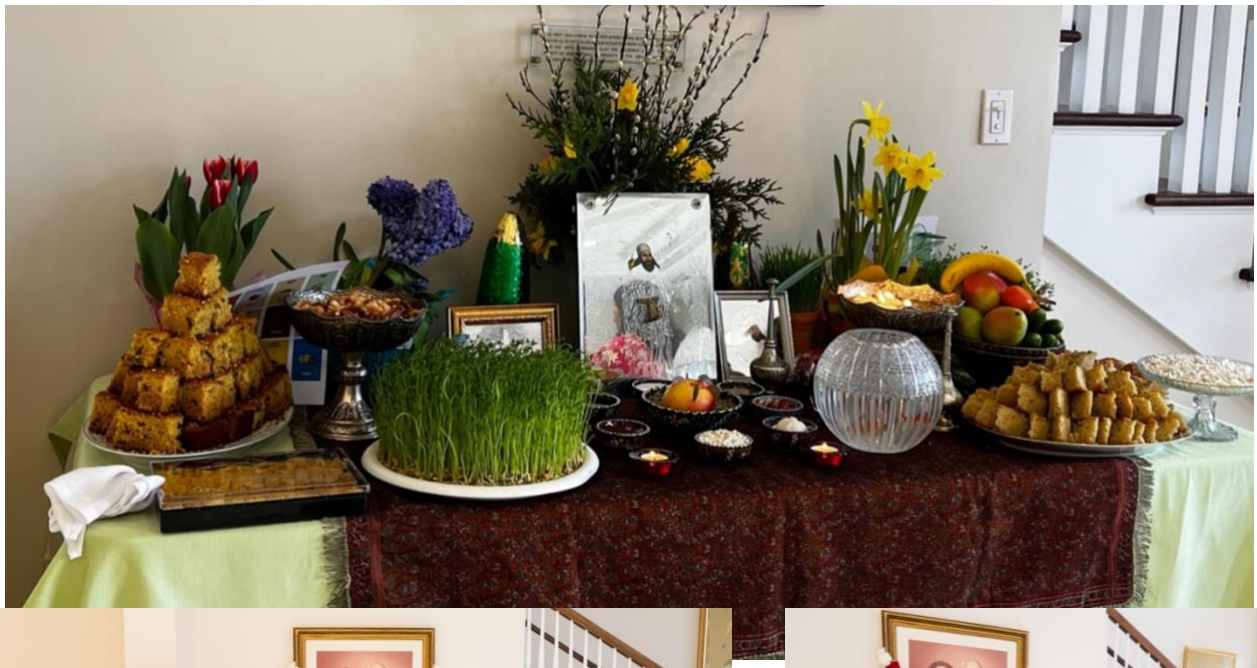




In keeping with tradition, attendees were welcomed with the ritual of gazing into a mirror and receiving a gentle sprinkling of rose water on their hands, offered by IZA youth volunteers Liana and Vienna Faramarzi, dressed in traditional Persian attire. At the registration desk, ZAGNY Treasurer Rushad Cassad, along with volunteers Adina Mistry, Maya Mistry, and Jeh Mory, warmly greeted guests as they arrived.



The resplendent Haft Sheen table, beautifully arranged by (in alphabetical order by last name) Firoozeh Aryani-Henry, Khurshid and Kersi Bellihomji, Bita and Sohrab Faramarzi, and Mitra Yektashenas, captured everyone's attention as they walked in.



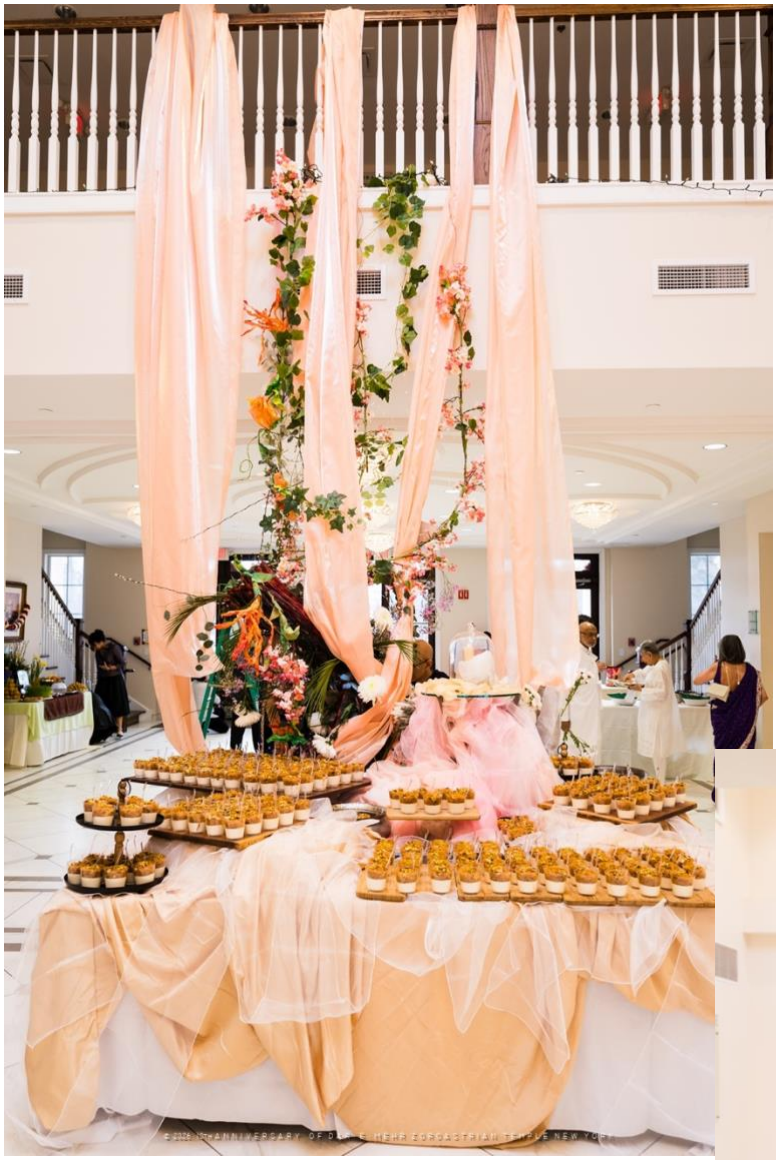




“Navroze Mubarak!” and “Norooz Pirooz!” echoed through the Foyer as guests streamed in, Parsi women elegantly dressed in their *Garas* or traditional *Kors*, and many men in their *Daglis*, adding to the festive splendor.







Chef Jehangir Mehta, in collaboration with artist Ziya Tarapore (who sadly, was unable to attend), created a stunning centerpiece in the foyer — a dramatic “waterfall of flowers and fabric” cascading gracefully from the balcony! At its base, guests were served auspicious *Sev-neh-Mithu-Dahi* (sweet vermicelli and yogurt) in elegantly presented individual cups, lovingly prepared by Kerbanoo and Walter D’Rosario. The installation quickly became a favorite photo spot during the event.

Guests also enjoyed *Chai* (Parsi tea) infused with lemongrass, mint, and ginger, prepared by Rushad Cassad, along with freshly brewed coffee, served with *batasas* (donated by Prema and Rushad Cassad) and *khari* biscuits, arranged by Prema Cassad and Jasely Dukandar,







The *Khushali-nu-Jashan* in the Ballroom was performed by our Mobeds, Ervads (in alphabetical order by last name) Xerxes Antia, Rohinton Dadina, Jamshed Dastur, Poruz Khambatta, and Porus Pavri, joined by Mobediyars Teshtar Irani and Khorshed Mehta. Prayers and blessings resonated throughout the hall as the fragrance of *Sukhar* and fresh flowers filled the room. Sincerest thanks to Teshtar for arranging the *Jashan* setup and to Sheroo Kanga for preparing the *Jashan-noh-Malido*.



















Cocktail hour offered guests a chance to reconnect with friends after a long winter and featured an open bar with a tempting array of appetizers that highlighted a delightful blend of Persian and Indian favorites – Beef Kabobs, Chicken *Farcha* Bites, *Samosa Chaat*, and *Pav-Bhaji*. Children enjoyed a special kids-meal of French Fries, Pasta, and Chicken Nuggets. After enjoying the sumptuous spread, guests eagerly returned to their seats, anticipating the next segment of the program.









In brief remarks, Presidents Nina Mistry (DMZT), Khursheed Navder (ZAGNY), and Sohrab Faramarzi (IZA) extended heartfelt Navroze greetings to our community, while acknowledging the current global situation, and offering prayers to all those facing uncertainty and hardship.





Nina shared that the 10th anniversary of our DM carried a deeper significance and was inseparable from another defining chapter in our history — it was 25 years since our community made the courageous decision to move from New Rochelle to Pomona and closed on this property on March 16, 2001, appreciating that at the time, it was a leap of faith, but today, it stood as a testament to a vision fulfilled!

Nina recognized the generous and distinctive donation of an antique carpet, titled *Salatine* (The Kings), by Mr. Boman Najmi and Family, gifted In Loving Memory of Firoza Khodadad Najmi And Family. Celebrated for its stunning colors and masterful wool and silk pile craftsmanship, this late twentieth-century Persian hand knotted pictorial Tabriz Carpet is designed with portraits of Persian Kings and historical events depicting Darius the Great conquering Babylon in the center medallion, along with four different battle scenes





decorating each corner with an elaborate cartouche frame including poems and portraits of the Persian Kings and Queens. This piece holds both artistic and historical significance and the tri-state Zoroastrian community is grateful to the Najmi family for this remarkable gift that now adorns our foyer. Special thanks were extended to Edul Daver and Nina Mistry for their efforts in ensuring the carpet was given a place of honor in our DM, where it can be admired by all for generations to come.

Khursheed recognized Dr. Shahriyour Andaz for his ongoing support and generous contribution of $100,000 on the DM 10th Anniversary. She announced that matching funds by way of event sponsorships, donations, and contributions had amounted to approx. $71,000 and another $30,000 was yet to be raised to match the $100,000 from Dr. Andaz. It was thrilling that a few young families stepped up with spontaneous pledges to bring us closer to the 100% match!





Niloufer Daver was invited to honor Dr. Andaz with a shawl, while Dr. Andaz shared a few words to recognize his parents, Thrity and Khushroo Andaz, who inspire him to follow in their footsteps with “Good Thoughts, Good Words, and Good Deeds”.

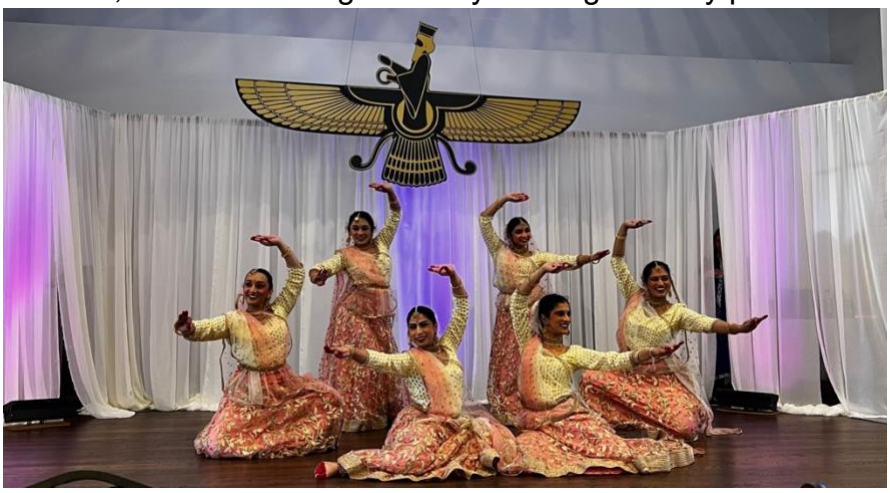
Recognition plaques were then presented to Edul Daver for his enduring commitment to the DM and our community, while acknowledging Niloufer Daver for her tremendous support; to Pam Shroff for going above and beyond for our DM; to Khursheed Navder and Shailendra Dusaj, Kerman and Jasely Dukandar, Shirin Khosravi (plaque accepted by Sohrab Faramarzi as Shirin was sadly, unable to attend), Mitra Yektashenas, and Darius Jamshidian for their 20+ years of continuous service to the community. Guests honored their years of dedication to our community with a standing ovation!





Emcee, Toos Daruvala, set the tone for the afternoon with charm and wit, kicking off the entertainment in style. With a natural flair for engaging the audience, Toos introduced each performance and the dancers bringing a high-spirited energy to the room.

Attendees were treated to an enchanting Western dance performance of the Rumba, Swing, and Samba by Zara Darbari of ZAGNY alongside Ukrainian dance teacher, Anton Bilozorov; a medley of captivating Indian dance performances, specially choreographed for this event by Sudha Shekhar of the Kalanjali School of Dance; and “An Homage to Bollywood” gracefully performed by Anjali Mehta and her group, left the audience wanting more!









This segment concluded with a moving rendition of *Chaiye Hame Zarthosti*, led by our own soprano, Tara Jamshidian, and beautifully accompanied by Liley and Cyrus Mehta on cello and violin (we missed Piroozi Cooper-Wittlin on the Oboe who sadly, was unable to attend). Members of the DMZT, IZA, and ZAGNY Boards, along with the 10th Anniversary Organizing Committee, joined them on stage carrying votives—symbols of light—creating a moving tableau as they participated in the performance of our Zoroastrian anthem alongside the guests.





Thanks to a true spirit of collaboration, guests enjoyed a lavish lunch spread featuring Persian delicacies from Ravagh as well as Parsi specialties by Mehernosh Daroowalla (along with wife Tina and son Rayan), which included salads and pickles, chicken kabobs, *Badenjoon* (eggplant), paneer tikka masala, *Dhan-Dar-Kolmi-noh-Patio* (split peas and rice with shrimp gravy), and berry pulao.



Following lunch, a soul-stirring Persian music folklore performance by Mitra Khorsandi accompanied by Amin Sarshar on the setar enthralled audiences.



Chef Jehangir Mehta was at it again, showcasing his creativity with an exceptional and diverse dessert spread display featuring traditional Persian delights of *Falooda* and *Baklava*; an ice cream sundae station for both the young and the young at heart; treats of Eli Zabar's renown coconut macaroons, brownies, rugelach, cookies, and biscotti, generously donated by Eli Zabar and Devon Fredericks, facilitated by Rohit Bansal; Indian favorites of *Kulfi* along with *Jashan-noh-Malido* and mixed nuts; complimented by refreshing vegan fruit salads of mixed berries and melon-n-grapes.

The celebration concluded on a sweet note with a cake honoring members of our cherished community who were celebrating birthdays and anniversaries that day.





Guests left the DM with treasured memories of the milestone celebration and a keepsake memento, engraved with our 10th Anniversary logo, designed by Arzan Sam Wadia and coordinated by Behroze Clubwala and Nina Mistry, handed out by our charming young ZAGNY volunteers Darius, Shanaya and Zia Cama.

WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO,

- ***our Benefactor Dr. Shahriyour Andaz for his invaluable support and extraordinary generosity,***

- ***our Event Sponsors for their continued support and generosity (in alphabetical order by last name) –***

  Platinum Sponsors: Anonymous, Aashish & Dinyar Devitre;
  Diamond Sponsors: Dr. Smita & Ervad Xerxes Antia, Percis & Rakesh Bansal, Dixie & Kaizad Cama, Nelly Cama & Family, In Loving Memory of Cawas J Cama, Hira & Toos Daruvala, Niloufer & Edul Daver, Gool & Farrokh Patel;
  Gold Sponsors: Gulestan & Farrokh Deboo, Nina & Adil Mistry;

Silver Sponsors: Anonymous, Hutoxi Bardoliwalla, Behroze & Astad Clubwala, Khush-Khushal Group, Aban & Gev Nentin, Roshan & Rohinton Rivetna, Shehriyar Antia & Nerina Rustomji, and Anahaita Kotval & Zubeen Shroff;
AND Eli Zabar and Devon Fredericks of Eli Zabar's.

- ***our Special Projects Donors for their continued support and generosity (in alphabetical order by last name) –***
  Dixie & Kaizad Cama, Farzana & Cyrus Cama, Behroze & Astad Clubwala, Hira & Toos Daruvala, Kashmira & Noshir Dutia, Yasmin & Jamshed Ghadiali, Pouruchishti & Farokh Hirjibehedin, Mrinalini Nair & Sherezad Mehta, Nina & Adil Mistry, and Kashmira Rustomji.

- ***our Donors who continue to generously show their support (in alphabetical order by last name) –***
  Firoozeh Aryani-Henry, Tehnaz & Edul Bamji, Mitzie & Khurshed Birdie, Seema Irani, Katayun Kapadia, Shireen Larsen, Yasmin Madon, Ruzbeh Mistry, Dana & Sarosh Nentin, Dinaz Subjali, and Diane Udwadia.

KUDOS TO,

- ***our Star 10th Anniversary Organizing Committee of (in alphabetical order by last name) –***
  Percis Bansal, Behroze Clubwala, Edul Daver, Nina Mistry, Khursheed Navder, and Arzan Sam Wadia of ZAGNY; Firoozeh Aryani-Henry and Sohrab Faramarzi of IZA.

  With exceptional support from (in alphabetical order by last name) –
  Rohit Bansal, Prema & Rushad Cassad, Astad Clubwala, Kerbanoo & Walter D'Rosario, Jasely Dukandar, Shailendra Dusaj, Jamshed Ghadiali, Teshtar Irani, Jehangir Mehta, Nawaz & Hoshi Merchant, Adil Mistry, Aban & Gev Nentin, Ferzin Patel, Sepehr Shojaie, Pam Shroff, and Sam Shroff.

- ***our Volunteers who gave it their all, making the event truly heartwarming (in alphabetical order by last name) –***
  Madhavi Batliboi, Minoo Bengali, Cyrus Cama, Dixie & Kaizad Cama, Nevil Cursetji, Meherzeen & Darius Daruwalla, Jamshed Dastur, Nasha Dastur, Zal Dabhoiwala, Aiyana D'Rosario, Kerman Dukandar, Natasha Dusaj, Farzad Dutia, Bita Faramarzi, Darius Jamshidian, Keyan Jamshidian, Sheroo Kanga, Kayomarz Khambatta, Dilshad Marolia, Hinata Mehta, Sherezad Mehta, Kamal Merchant, Adina Mistry, Maya Mistry, Zarine Mistry, Gustad Mody, Tanaz Mody, Jeh Mory, Avan Patel, Ferzin Patel, Katie Patel, Farimeh Shamssi, Zarine Shroff, and Mitra Yektashenas.

- ***our Youth Volunteers, whose infectious energy filled the event with warmth and joy (in alphabetical order by last name) –***
  Cyrus Batliboi, Zahaan Batliboi, Arzan Cama, Darius Cama, Shanaya Cama, Zia Cama, Liana Faramarzi, Vienna Faramarzi, Xaera Mehta, Xerxes Mehta, Zane Merriweather, and Farhaan Shroff.

OUR HEARTFELT THANKS to each of our Guests, Benefactor, Sponsors, Donors, Volunteers, and Organizing Committee — March 21, 2026 will stand as yet another spectacular celebration of our wonderful DM and the tri-state Zoroastrian community!

EVENT RECAP TEXT PREPARED BY

Behroze Clubwala
Nawaz Merchant
Nina Mistry

PHOTOGRAPH CREDITS

Firoozeh Aryani-Henry
Behroze Clubwala
Nawaz Merchant
Nina Mistry
Vikram