

## Zarathushti Cultural Center

of Oclaware Valley Inc

Jehan Kasad, President Freny Ranji, Trustee Noshir Karanjia, Vice President Diana Dadachanji, Trustee Ava Lala, Secretary Adi Kasad, Treasurer Arnavaz Sukhia, Trustee

We are in the process of building a Darbe Meher in New Jersey for our parent association ZAPANJ, the Zoroastrian Association of New Jersey and Pennsylvania which was established in 1979. We are approximately 120 families who hold religion classes (where 40 children and 70 adults regularly attend), celebrate our religious days (Pateti, Navroze Ghambar, etc) and over the years we have educated many children and adults in our religious teachings, culture and traditions. Our children participate in community events, help food banks and charities.

By building a Darbe Meher we wish not only to preserve our identity but continue to pass on our values to our children, friends and communities. We want to hold seminars and conferences of religious and cultural scholars to promote understanding of our religion, culture and heritage to our children and our local communities. We have been holding our classes in township community centers in the past. It is becoming very difficult to find a suitable place to hold these events at a reasonable cost and many of these places do not allow us to perform a Jashan ceremony due to fire restrictions. Under the circumstances, it has become imperative that we build our own Darbe Meher so we can accommodate our present and future needs and leave a legacy for our future generations just as our forefathers left in India. It is our plan to build a Darbe Meher that houses a library, classrooms, prayer room and a hall. Our adults and youth are involved and eager to see this project succeed.

For the past seven years we have collected funds and bought a two-acre piece of land in Mt. Laurel, New Jersey. Our entire project will cost \$1.43 million. Unfortunately we were not the beneficiary of grants from Arbab Giv like many centers here in the United States and Canada. After paying for the land we have presently in cash and pledges \$400,000. We could raise another \$300,000 to \$400,000. We still need help from our global community like you to finish the project and help us carry on our Zarathushti legacy.

ZACUCE would be humbled to receive your help and proud to display your name. The enclosed brochure will give you an idea of the proposed structure, and some further information about the project. We have enclosed a donation form, and we hope that your association, as well as individual members can help us so please could you print this in your Newsletter. However big or small your donation can make you feel proud to have lent a hand to fellow Zarthustis in bringing their dream to fruition.

Thank you and

Ahura Mazda's Blessings to you all

Jehan Kasad

President, ZACUCE

Freny Kanji

President ZAPANI