



Editor's Note

Best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year. May all of the good within us flourish and engulf the world so that a ray of hope is shined upon it and its passengers.

Upcoming Events

Panjeh Gahanbar and Chahar-Shanbeh-Soori

Mobed Khorshidian will perform the Panjeh Gahanbar Avesta on Tuesday, 3/19/02, at 5:00Pm and then there will be the traditional fire jumping ceremonies. Admission is free and sandwiches will be available for purchase.

Note: The format is changed from the previously announced potluck. Please do not bring any potluck items.

First Day of the Year Visit

To continue a PZO tradition, come to the Dar-e-Mehr after start of the New Year on Wednesday, 3/20/02, and on the first day of the year (Thursday, 21st of March) to pray and visit with others. Bring your favorite Persian sweets to share and wish for a happy new year.

Ashoo Zartosht's Birthday and Norooz Celebration

Join us for a fun filled night on Saturday 3/23/02 in celebration of these two major events.

Place: Dar-e-Mehr Rostam and Morvarid Guiv

The program will include:

This part of the program is open to all free of charge

- Prayer ceremonies starting at 6:00PM by Mobed Khorshidian

Second part of the program will be in the tent and requires purchase of tickets

- Chorus performance at 7:00PM
- Dance program by Afsaneh dance group
- Surprise guests
- Hot dinner - Chello-Kabab (koobideh and Joojeh) and vegetarian
- Live music with **Shamaizadeh** at 9:30PM

Ticket Prices:

Adults = \$30 (\$26 expenses, \$4 donation)

Children 4-10 years old = \$15

Tickets must be ordered and paid for by 17th of March 2002. Please contact one of the following people to order and for payment instructions:

Mehrbanou Goodarz at (408) 737-7966

Mehri Azadeganian at (510) 582-3296

After March 17, ticket prices will be \$5 higher. Prices will be \$10 higher at the door, if available.

Please carpool as the parking space is limited

We are sorry but there will be a limit of 400 tickets and no tickets will be sold after that.

Ashoo Zartosht's Actual Birthday

Although prayers are performed during the Norooz celebration in honor of his birthday, it is important that all Zoroastrian's observe this most important celebration on its actual anniversary. Please join us on Tuesday, 3/26/02, at 5:00PM when Mobed Khorshidian starts the ceremonies.

Seezdah_Bedar

This year the 13th day of the New Year falls on a Tuesday. Therefore, we will celebrate it on Sunday, 3/31/02, in a picnic potluck style, outdoor at Dar-e-Mehr.

Note: Please make sure all foods are brought in their own container and you cleanup completely upon your departure.

Farvardeengan Celebration

This day, that is also known as Froodog will be celebrated on Sunday, 4/7/02, with Avesta starting at 3:30PM by Mobed Khorshidian.

Midyo-Zaramgah Gahanbar

Will be celebrated on Saturday, 5/4/02, with Avesta starting at 3:30PM by Mobed Khorshidian.

Thank You's

Following individuals made the indicated donation since the last issue of the Newsletter:

- Dr. Manouchehr Noroozian \$250
- Rostam Salamati in the name of his late parents, Ardeshir Bahram and Khoshnam Kaykhosro \$150
- Kourosh and Kathie Vakhshoori \$500 toward the Immigrant Assistance Fund
- Niosha Nafei Dance Studio \$50
- Nasser Hiekali \$75, Shahram Barkhordarian \$50, and Darioush Flahati \$101, in the name of Mr. Falhati's late father during his Porseh



Following donations were made during the Tooji Gahanbar:

- Jamshid Zartoshty \$1000
- Goudarz Goudarzi \$160
- Keikhosrow Behziz \$101
- Guita Bahramipour \$100
- Susan Kaboli \$70
- Kasra & Nooshin Kasravi \$50
- Koorosh Vakhshoori \$50
- Jahangir Parvereshi \$25
- There was also a total \$229 in cash donations

Following individuals donated the indicated items:

- Parizad Bakhtari and Ardeshir Jamshidi donated a 1992 Toyota Camrey
- Mrs. Homayoon Sooroshian donated four space heaters for the tent valued at \$1000
- Mrs. Shahnaz Khosravi donated one heater for the tent valued at \$250

Following volunteers helped us in organizing a very successful Sadeh celebration:

Mehraban and Shirin Gharibshahi, Behrooz Darabi Farsi, Behnaz and Behzad Bozorg-Chami, Kourosh Sooroshian, Feraydoon Jamzadeh, Khashayar Mazdeh, Shahryar and Shohreh Aryani, and Bobak Firoozbakhsh.

Decoration and flower arrangement for the Sadeh celebration were performed by Sarvar Aidun Dinyari with help from Soosan Shahryari and Mehri Azadeganian.

On the day of the celebration Mehri Azadeganian (a member of the Anjoman) along with her husband Hooshang, her son Hooman, her daughter Nooshin, and her son-in-law Kasra Kasravi helped out in planing and conducting the celebration throughout the day.

Our sincere thanks to these and all of our sponsors and supporters without whom none of our efforts would be possible.

Updates

Congratulations

Each year Stanford University conducts a difficult entrance exam for their EE Ph.D. program where only 70 students are selected among

almost 200 candidates. This year Abtin Keshavarzian ranked first among all students. Way to go Abtin!

Where Does the Money Go?

Sadeh celebration was a very successful event this year. After conducting a Jashan for the opening of the tent, the Avesta and fire ceremonies were performed by Mobed Khorshidian in its traditional and glorious fashion. Later entertainment was followed by dancing and fun in the large tent.

However, this event was not without its share of controversies. Since this event was going to be the first event in the Big Tent, we had planned a night of entertainment and fun to follow the traditional ceremonies. Planning for such an event costs money and therefore tickets were sold for the second part of the event in the tent. Unfortunately we heard of complaints from some of the members of the community objecting to Sadeh being a paid event.

Shortly after the election of the eleventh Anjoman, members set an agenda for their term. One of the major items of this agenda was to establish an organized way of fund raising for our organization, as our fund raising activities in the past have been ad hoc and unproductive. As one of the ways to achieve this we set a goal of making all major events self-supporting, meaning that enough funds must be raised during these events to pay for their cost. However, we went further on setting a goal of actually adding to the cost of tickets for these events an amount as a donation so that through these events we can also increase the funds that our organization needs to operate.

We must say that we are somewhat baffled by the complaints as all proceeds from these events will directly go into the PZO funds. No one gets paid here and all members of the Anjoman and volunteers pay full price for themselves and their families. We considered giving a discount to our volunteers as an incentive, but we found out that they are not doing what they do for this reason. Unlike many other Zoroastrian organizations in North America, ours does not have a membership fee and our only source of income is from donations and funds we can raise through these types of events.



It is important to note that all decisions regarding the Sadeh ticket prices and food cost were voted and passed unanimously by all seven members of the Anjoman. We must be trusted and supported with our decisions if there is any hope for us to be an effective Anjoman.

The large donations that have been made by few scholars of our community in the past few months are designated for major improvements of Dar-e-Mehr. We need the on-going donations and funds we raise during these events for the day-to-day operation and maintenance of the facility. We can thank those few individuals who donate often in large amounts over and over, but what are we doing to better our organization? Who will our children's children thank in 50 years?

We also believe that an effective and supportive community comes from an informed one. Below is the cost and revenues of the Sadeh celebration:

Expenses	
Soft Drinks & Alcoholic Beverages	\$62.00
Plates, Napkins, and Table Cloths	\$72.00
Persian Cheese and Bread	\$48.00
Bar Snacks, Cookies, Ice	\$24.00
Fruit and "Sabzee"	\$162.00
Sandwiches and Chips	\$576.00
Dance Program (less \$50 donation)	\$150.00
DJ Music	\$700.00
Decoration	\$295.00
Heater Rental (6)	\$500.00
Bathroom Rental	\$270.00
Others (tips, sugar, tax, etc.)	\$144.00
Total Expenses	\$3003.00
Revenues	
Ticket Sale	\$3050.00
Food and Drink Sale	806.00
Total Revenues	\$3856.00
Profit	\$853.00

We had a total of 170 attending the paid part of the event. As advertised, part of the ticket price was set as a donation at \$5 per ticket. Of course we had spent a lot more on the supplies but a lot of the items were not used and can be used in future events so the cost was adjusted to reflect what was used.

Another complaint that we received from some was that although they did not have any problem with the price of the tickets at their regular price, they thought that the added \$10 for those purchasing at the door was too steep, and we agree. We really didn't want and expect too many people purchasing tickets at the last moment. Organizing an event like this is very difficult, as everything must be ordered days before the event. If we over stock and have a lot of things leftover when people don't show up then it dilutes the profit that we are trying so hard to raise for Dar-e-Mehr. On the other hand if we have a lot of people show up at the door, we may run out of things and that would not be fair to people who reserve and buy their tickets ahead of time and before the deadlines. We must discourage this type of procrastination.

It must be said that the complaints that were received are not wide spread. We are very encouraged that a large number of our community, a lot of them from the younger generation, have complemented us on how the program was conducted and have given us words of encouragement on continuing along the same track. We however have learned from number of constructive complaints and will be making modifications in the future events as necessary and as follows:

- We will make sure that all of our traditional events have the religious and traditional part of the program open and free to all and this fact is clearly defined in the Newsletter announcement. Tickets will be sold only for the entertainment portion of those programs.
- For events when dinner is not included, we will set a price structure to include a family category where for a set price slightly above two adults and one child, the entire family is covered.
- We will continue to solicit comments at each event and adjust our programs accordingly.
- We are planning a discussion session open to all members of our community in Spring or Summer, where we can get comments and feedback directly and can discuss our activities during a live forum.

Next Issue of the Divine Leaf

We are planning to publish the Divine Leaf eight to ten times a year, more often during the Fall and Winter than Spring and Summer months. Our



next issue will be published in late May or early June.

A Gift From Trust of Morvarid Guiv

This year like other years, we have received number of beautiful Persian calendars from the Trust of Morvarid Guiv. These calendars are mailed along with this Newsletter. Extra copies of the calendars will be available at Dar-e-Mehr for those who are not on the mailing list.

Corrections

In the December issue of The Divine Leaf we announced that Kenkash Mobedan donated \$150,000. The correct statement is that Mobed Mehraban Zartoshty donated the funds in the name of Kenkash Mobedan.

Special Advertising Section

Enrollment for spring'2002 Sunday Classes of Vohuman School will be from March 1st to 30th. Visit the www.Vohuman.Org "Education" to enroll by Internet. This term we will be offering Religion, Farsi, Persian Heritage, and Persian Music classes.

Chahar-Shanbeh-Soorie celebrations and fund raising: This year's festival is planned on 3/19/02, from 6:10pm in Palo Alto, JLS school. Fire Jumping, Chello-Kabob, Persian desert, Persian musical performance, and Persian puppet show are all part of this plan. For tickets send email to Vohuman@Vohuman.Org or call Jamshid (650) 855-9900.

This year send your friends Norooz e-Cards using www.Vohuman.Org web site.

Donation Envelops:

Several members of the community suggested that from time to time we should include self addressed envelopes the same as many other charitable organizations do so that they can be used should anyone wishes to support the Dar-e-Mehr programs with their donations. These envelopes are enclosed with this issue of the Newsletter.

For each issue of The Divine Leaf, a limited number of advertisements will be accepted. This Newsletter has a circulation of 300, which is sent to Zoroastrian families in Northern California.

Please contact Kourosh Dinyari at (510) 796-3157 for information.

Our Needs:

In each issue of the Newsletter, we publish a list of items that Dar-e-Mehr needs for those who prefer donating items as oppose to money. We also list their approximate cost in case you would like to donate toward their purchase:

We needed eight space heaters for the tent. Since we found a good sale, we purchased all eight heaters at a cost of \$250 each. To date we have received donation for the cost of seven of them. Cost of one heater remains to be covered by donation.