



Calendar of Events

Public Porseh	Thursday 6/19/03
Teergan Celebration and Midyoshahemgah Gahanbar	Sunday 6/29/03

Editor's Note

The Last Six Months

On May 4th, during our first public forum of 2003, we discussed some new proposals for changes to the PZO Bylaws. These include changes to the term length of the Anjoman as well as number of Anjoman members.

At the last election, a motion was passed to change the term length of the Anjoman members from two years to four years. The idea was that starting with the twelfth Anjoman to re-elect half of the members so that there will always be a two years transition period from the previous members to the new ones. Although this appears to be an excellent plan in reality it is unworkable. Since our election, two of the original elected members have resigned and one of the replacements for those has also resigned. Recently when we discussed the selection of the half to be replaced at the next election it was determined that all of the remaining members from the previous election would like to be part of that list. We have come to the conclusion that four years is too long. This is a very gratifying position; however, it is also very demanding and time consuming. We now think that if we leave the term length to four years as it was passed, it would be even more difficult to find new candidates in the future, a task that has been very difficult at best in the past with just two years term length.

Therefore, we are proposing to change the term length of the Anjoman to two years and three months. The last three months is to coincide with the first three months of a new Anjoman as a transition period. Also, we are proposing to change the number of Anjoman members from seven to five members. In the past usually four or five members of each Anjoman become the active force in each term. We think this will allow us to come up with a better list of qualified candidates at each election.

With these changes, if passed, our term will end at the end of this year. The election of twelfth Anjoman is planned for October and with our

three months of transition; our term will end in January.

With these in mind, our focus for the remainder of our term will change. We will be concentrating on a number of important tasks as follows:

- Draft of amendment to PZO Bylaws to include changes mentioned as well as other updates associated with correction of some out of date items.
- Election rules and process improvements to provide for a more formalized election.
- Continuation of Dar-e-Mehr expansion plan through obtaining all county permits and necessary plans.
- Development of Bylaws for a new proposed supervisory group to oversee the Dar-e-Mehr and Anjoman matters on a long term basis. These Bylaws and proposal will also be put forward for ratification at the next election.
- Completion of other on-going initiatives.

This is a long list of difficult tasks but we accept the challenge and feel that it is our responsibility for successful completion of our term. We look forward to your ideas, comments, and help in achieving these goals.

Upcoming Events

Public Porseh

Mobed Khorshidian will hold the public Porseh on Thursday 6/19/03, Oormazd day, with Avesta starting at 5:30PM. We invite all, especially those who lost a loved one during the last twelve months, to attend and pray for them.

Teergan Celebration and Midyoshahemgah Gahanbar

Join us on Sunday, 6/29/03, starting at about Noon for the festive celebration of Teergan with water games for all ages and potluck. Come in your casual summer attire and be prepared to get wet and bring your favorite dish to eat and share. At 3:00PM, Mobed Khorshidian will perform the Gahanbar prayers.

Last year due to excessive water use, the well and the pump system required major repairs afterward. For this reason we ask that more conservation be taken with the water games, this year.



Thank You's

We received the following donations from the indicated well-wishers:

- Mehyar and Mandana Banki \$101
- ZANC \$2000
- Homa and Mehrdad Mojgani \$20
- Rostam Gharaee-Kermani \$10
- Well wisher who requested not to be listed \$70
- Bahram Atashband \$200
- Masood Sepand \$100
- Fraydoon Aryai \$100

Following donations were marked to be matched by Mr. and Mrs. Parineh's matching fund offer:

- Darab and Manijeh Bozorg Chami \$1000
- Hormoz Bozorg Chami \$200
- Manijeh Bahramipour \$100
- Well wisher who requested not to be listed \$101

Following donations were received along with applications for purchase of Norooz tickets:

- Koorosh Aflatooni and Mehrnaz Ebtadaei \$100
- Manouchehr and Mehrnoosh Namvar \$101
- Parvaneh and Rostam Sedaghat \$100
- Shahnaz Faramarzi \$60
- Nersi Hemati \$70
- Mahinbanoo Mazdeh \$66

Also, we collected a total of \$146 in donations from several other well wishers.

We collected \$371 in donation during the Midyo-Zaramgah Gahanbar including the following:

- Fariba Khorshidan \$101
- Keykhosrow Khorsidian \$101
- Mary Merabi \$50
- D. Khosravi \$21
- S. Hormuz \$21

Mr. Koorosh Vakhshoori donated \$400 in the name of his late father, Dr Rostam Vakhshoori.

Mrs. Govhar Mehrafshani donated \$51 in place of flowers in the name of late Mrs. Sarvar Behziz.

All of the collected funds will go toward their indicated funds or general maintenance and operation of the Dar-e-Mehr. We extend our sincere thanks to these and all of our sponsors and supporters without whom none of our efforts would be possible.

Updates

Norooz Celebration – What a Fun Night

Our biggest event of the year, once again, proved to match its name. We had a very successful and fun night with over 530 people from the Bay Area and even some from other parts of the country in attendance. The program which included entertainment by talented members of the community, a very delicious Persian dinner, and entertainment by Morteza went flawlessly. We thank the community for arriving at the event on time so that all programs could get started according to the schedule.

As usual such an even would not have been possible without the help of a large group of volunteers. We must thank all of our volunteers for their dedication and tremendous help. First of all we must thank Mehrbanou Goodarz and Khashayar Mazdeh for handling the entire ticket reservation and purchasing process. This was a tremendous task as they had to process tens of purchase applications and numerous numbers of calls nightly including weekends. They along with Manouchehr Mobedshahi performed the difficult task of ticket processing at the door. We also must thank our door monitors, Kasra and Noushin Kasravi, Kourosh Pourdehmobed, Jamshid Varza, Hooman Azadeganian, Ojan and Zubin Mobedshahi. This was a difficult task as it is rather confrontational and sometimes not taken in stride. But it was necessary as we were sold out and we had indication that many more people were looking for tickets and some may have even tried to show up at the event without tickets. Of course our obligation to the people who had purchased tickets was to make sure that our resources and food is not depleted by non ticketed attendees.

We thank our children dance and singing group who performed a play along with verses from Avesta and folkloric dance. The group which consisted of Asha and Atrina Anoosheh, Mahsa and Parsa Khoramdin, Sheida and Shenaya Saules, Negin Falahati, and Pedram Namiranian was trained by Mrs. Afsaneh Mehrabanpour.



We also thank Alborz Khosraviani for the beautiful keyboard playing of the accompanying music.

We thank Mahsa Dinyari for her solo folkloric dance to the music of Auref.

We thank our children dance group from the Sacramento area who consisted of Nika Kasravi, Naaz and Niloofar Pashootanzadeh, Shirin Karimi, and Arian Behziz. This group was trained by Mrs. Shirin Golzari.

We thank our famous chorus group. This group who also performed at Mehregan as well as this year's Sadeh has become highlight of our events. They are now known throughout the country and we hope that they continue their activities as we have high plans for them. This group refuses individual recognition and would like to be mentioned only by their name, Hamavayan.

As it has become a tradition at our Norooz events, our Haji Firooz and Amoo Norooz were played by Arya Goudarzi and Hooshang Azadeganian, respectively. We thank them both for their beautiful performance. Also we thank the two friends that provided the music and singing for the performance, Mehrdad Mojgani on Zarb and Bijan Khosraviani with singing of Amoo Norooz songs.

The beautiful Haftseen for the event was arranged by Soosan Shahryari. The center piece flower/Haftseen arrangements as well as the stage flower arrangements were designed and arranged by Sarvar Dinyari with assistance by Soosan Shahryari.

We broke a record for serving dinner with 530 people being served in only 50 minutes. For this we are indebted to our serving volunteers, Bahram, Giti, and Ardeshir Hormozyari, Mehri Azadeganian, Nirvana Anosseh, Nahid Afshari, Atousa Khoramdin, Kourosch Pourdehmobed, Arshia Arvandi, Soosan Shahryari, Sima Kermani, and coordination by Mehrbanou Goodarz.

We thank our video crew, Rangarang Group (Mehrdad Irani and Alborz Khosraviani).

Finally we thank all those who helped throughout the night with coordination of events,

clean up, and many other tasks necessary for conductance of such an event.

Careful planning as well use of large number of volunteers resulted in a profit for Dar-e-Mehr even with such a full and expensive program. After all costs were accounted for, we ended up with a profit of \$1,073. There was a total of \$643 in donations and the profit includes \$213 in leftover donations.

More About the Bylaws and Election Process

In addition to the Bylaws changes that were listed in the first article, Editor's Note, we are considering number of other changes as well as election reforms. Sometime in late summer we are planning to mail the details of these changes along with election instructions to the recipients of this Newsletter. Of course most of these changes will be included in the amendment to the Bylaws to be ratified at the October election. Some of these changes include:

- Changes to the Bylaws to set the minimum age for members of Anjoman to 21 instead of the current 25.
- Clean up of some out of date items in the Bylaws.
- Establishment of a process so that most candidates are identified and announced prior to election.
- Establishment of the election oversight team prior to election.
- Mailing of election ballot to the members of Anjoman as defined by those on the mailing list prior to election.
- We are still receiving recommendation and are also on the opinion of the need for the establishment of a supervisory group for Dar-e-Mehr on a long term and more permanent membership basis. This group will oversee the long term roadmap for the Dar-e-Mehr and will also be responsible for overall funds of the Anjoman. We are planning to determine the structure of such a group by consulting with members of the community, especially those who were involved with the original Bylaws development.

What is Happening with Dar-e-Mehr Expansion Plans

The planning effort of developing a Master Plan for expansion of Dar-e-Mehr is well underway. We have consulted with an architectural firm for



the development of these plans and will soon engage in a contractual agreement for their development as well as obtainment of needed permits from the county planning commission.

The architectural firm shall develop all of the needed plans and perform the interface activities with the Planning commission. The firm will also consult and arrange for additional needed studies and plans such as the environmental studies.

It is forecasted that all of the plans, approvals, and needed permits will be completed by Spring of 2004 after which the construction of the expansion buildings will commence.

We have conducted several public forums to collect suggestions from the community. Please forward any additional suggestions to the members of the Anjoman or participate in our future forums. Current plans are to develop a mater plan to include obtainment of legal permit for Atashkadeh, permit for the erection of the tent, permit for building of a large gathering hall, and permit for improvement of existing parking area.

Minutes of May 4th Public Forum

Most of the items covered at the PZO public forum held on May 4th involved changes to the Bylaws and the election process that have already been mentioned in other articles. One additional item raised was a method for identification of Anjoman membership.

PZO, over the years, has contemplated establishment of membership. Currently PZO does not require membership via a paid subscription. Involvement in ZPO is open to the entire Zoroastrian community of Northern California. The 11th Anjoman also believes in this tradition as it is believed the paid subscription limits participation from the community. We also believe that such a membership will negatively affect our fund raising activities.

However for the purpose of election and other matters such as determination of our annual dues for FEZANA, it is desirable to account for members of an organization such as PZO. Up to now we have relied on our mailing list for this purpose. Since this has been effective, it will be continued for now. We have tried to maintain a

very accurate mailing list, however we need your help to make it even more accurate. If you know of anyone who is not currently part of our mailing list but lives in our community, please have them provide us with their information. Also, if your address includes only the name of one adult at the address, as specified by the label on the back of this Newsletter, please provide us with the name of other adults. The next election will use this mailing list as the official roster of PZO members.

Would You Like to be a Candidate?

As was mentioned earlier, we have set a goal of identifying most of the candidates for the next Anjoman prior to the election day. For this reason each member of Anjoman has been tasked to enlist a minimum of two people for the next election. If you are approached for this important responsibility, please give it serious thought. This is a demanding responsibility but it can be very gratifying, knowing that you will be helping your community and the Zoroastrianism.

Update of Plans for a Zoroastrian Cemetery

As has been reported in the past, the 24 cemetery plots that had been purchased in a cemetery in Los Gatos for use as a Zoroastrian cemetery are about to run out. We have approached another cemetery in Lost Altos for another block of lots. However, we are determined to continue this plan only if we can raise a minimum of 50% of the needed funds. The remainder of the cost is to be mortgaged over 20 years. To raise the needed funds we are pre-selling the lots at today's prices. If we are successful in raising the needed funds and complete the purchase of these lots, all future lost will be sold at the market price at the time they are purchased. Our experience has shown that prices do go up each year.

The 3rd Unity Cup Soccer Games

Will be held this Coming Labor Day Weekend!
For Details see: www.FEZANA.org
If you have nay question please contact ZSC@FEZANA.org

The Devine Leaf is the official newsletter of the Persian Zoroastrians Organization (PZO) of Northern California, 11th Anjoman.

Editor-in-Chief: Kourosh Dinyari
Farsi Translation and Editing: Mehrbanou Goodarz, Khashayar Mazdeh



Our next issue will be in August of 2003